

Leesburg Townsite  
Napias Creek  
Salmon Vicinity  
Lemhi County  
Idaho

HABS No. ID-106

HABS  
ID.  
30-SAL.V.  
1-

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

**REDUCED COPY OF MEASURED DRAWING**

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Historic American Buildings Survey  
Western Regional Office  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California 94107

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

LEESBURG TOWNSITE

HABS No. ID-106

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I. INTRODUCTION

Location: The Leesburg Townsite lies near the confluence of Camp and Napias creeks in the historic Leesburg or Mackinaw Mining District. It is about 12 miles northwest of Salmon, the seat of Lemhi County, Idaho.

Quad: Leesburg, 1989 (provisional), 7.5'

UTM: Zone 11, 726500 E, 5011700 N

Date of Construction: 1866-1937

Present Owner: Salmon National Forest  
Salmon, Idaho, and  
Meridian Gold Company  
Salmon, Idaho

Present Use: Abandoned

Significance: The Leesburg Historic District has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places since 1975. It is significant as one of the earliest gold mining camps in Idaho. The buildings, associated cemetery, and other features reflect the long and varied history of the town, from the placer mining boom of the late 1860s, through years of small-time placer and lode mining operations, to the 1930s and early 1940s, the last years when Leesburg functioned as a community.

Historian: Mitzi Rossillon  
Renewable Technologies, Inc.  
Butte, Montana  
December, 1992

## II. HISTORY

### A. THE LEESBURG MINING DISTRICT

The Leesburg Basin is a high mountain area in Lemhi County, east-central Idaho, which encompasses the drainage basin of Napias Creek and its tributaries.<sup>1</sup> The Leesburg Mining District, later known as the Mackinaw District, includes the entire basin plus the Moose Creek drainage, which begins immediately northeast of Napias Creek.

Mining in the Leesburg area began in 1866 when B.F. Sharkey, Elijah Mulkey, William Smith, Ward Girton, and Joseph Rapp left Deer Lodge, Montana Territory, on a gold prospecting trip to Idaho. The men arrived in the Leesburg Basin during the summer, and on August 12 discovered placer gold along a creek which became known as Wards Gulch. When word of the discovery leaked later that fall, the gold rush to the Leesburg Basin began. A mining district was immediately established and the community of Leesburg founded. Reportedly, 400-500 miners wintered there, amidst a small collection of businesses and houses. The basin's isolated location in the Salmon River Mountains and a long and snowy 1866-1867 winter kept the number of prospectors relatively low until the following spring when between 3000 and 7000 people moved to the newly-formed mining district. The new arrivals were greeted by a booming mining camp where about 130 buildings were standing or in the process of being built.<sup>2</sup>

Though tempered by the sobering reality of the mountain climate, boulders in some of the placer ground, and only modest gold recovery, the Leesburg boom continued through 1867 and 1868. Production in 1868 reached about \$750,000 or three times that of the previous year.<sup>3</sup>

Both individuals and small companies conducted mining during Leesburg's first years. The latter included the Discovery Company which was formed by the five men who initially found gold in the basin and reportedly operated for 10 years. Most of the early claims were worked by hand, although a few hydraulic (giant) mines operated during the latter part of the nineteenth century.<sup>4</sup>

The excitement of the Loon Creek, Yellowjacket, and other discoveries in central Idaho in the late 1860s spelled the end of the Leesburg boom, but not the end of placer mining. By 1870, Leesburg's population dropped to 175.<sup>5</sup> After departure of most of the Euro-Americans, Chinese placer miners took over many of the Leesburg claims. A handful of Chinese remained in the area well into the twentieth century.<sup>6</sup> Although there is a paucity of records from this period (1870-1900), production appears to have been limited.

While other camps in central Idaho revived after the placer mining bust with the discovery and development of lode claims, such was not the case at Leesburg. Between 1901 and 1954, lode mines accounted for less than 15 percent of all mineral production in the basin. The Italian Mine, which commenced operations in 1892 and operated sporadically until the early 1920s, proved the most productive of the Leesburg Basin lode mines, yielding about \$175,000 by 1904.<sup>7</sup>

Although fewer miners remained,<sup>8</sup> placer mining at Leesburg continued into the twentieth century, and hydraulic, drag-line, and dredge mining operations owned by corporations dominated. The most productive and impressive of the mechanical placer operations was the dredge which the Pacific Dredge Company (and later John Mullan) operated on Moose Creek between the late 1890s and 1919.<sup>9</sup> An estimated \$1 million worth of gold was recovered by the dredge.<sup>10</sup> Small hydraulic and drag-line operations employed a few people between 1908 and the 1950s. Records of the Idaho Inspector of Mines, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Bureau of Mines indicate limited production by these latter companies.<sup>11</sup>

Ironically, the establishment and growth of the town of Salmon is Leesburg's most important contribution to the history of Idaho. Founded as a shipping point for supplies to the town of Leesburg and its mines, the town grew rapidly. It had gained such prominence by 1869 that it was selected as the seat of the newly-formed Lemhi County. The gold rush to Leesburg also introduced this undeveloped area of central Idaho to ranchers, merchants, and other developers who were to become the mainstay of the local economy.<sup>12</sup>

## B. LEESBURG ARCHITECTURE

The architectural history of Leesburg is not completely known because historical documentation (aside from photographs) is almost non-existent, few if any buildings remain from the earliest period(s) of construction, and actual or estimated dates of construction for several of the standing buildings are not available. General trends in the area's architectural development can be detected with available data, however.

The earliest buildings at Leesburg, not counting tents which were probably quite common, were constructed of logs. Log buildings were used for residential and commercial purposes.<sup>13</sup> As whip-sawn (by hand) lumber was the only lumber available during the town's initial development, it was presumably used sparingly in building construction. Most of the lumber produced was probably demanded by miners for their wooden sluice boxes.

In the spring of 1867, following discovery of gold, about 130 buildings were built or being built in Leesburg. Their form and composition was unrecorded except for one

photograph taken in 1870.<sup>14</sup> The photo shows only two buildings clearly, one log and another with a false-front, probably also of logs. The first had a front gable roof with 3½:12 pitch, saddle-notched(?) corners, a center front door, and a 9-light window on the front to the right of the door. The other building had a clapboard-sided false-front and a pair of entry doors, flanked by 12-light windows. These two buildings stand less than 3 feet apart. The only other available description of the earliest Leesburg buildings is critical; an early-day resident remarked that some buildings were considered "of no value," suggesting that the quality of construction was poor. These poorer buildings were dismantled shortly after the end of the boom.<sup>15</sup>

Most of the buildings which remain standing in Leesburg today, regardless of age, resemble the first log cabin described above. All are front-gable buildings, although on the average they have a roof pitch about twice as steep as that of the 1870 cabin. In about half of the cases, the front door is at the center. Saddle and square notching are the most common corner treatments, and to a lesser degree steeple notching. The 1870 cabin was daubed on the exterior, probably with mud, as are many of the extant buildings in town. In addition, most of the latter have been chinked on the interior with split wood wedges or poles. With only one exception (Feature 9, see below), gable ends are log instead of frame. The roof material of the 1870 buildings cannot be determined from the photograph. Most of the buildings standing today at Leesburg have combination roofs. The materials vary slightly from building to building, but in most instances include split poles resting on the log ridge pole and purlins, over which lies a layer of dirt, then rafters or purlins, and finally a top layer of boards or wood shingles. These combination roofs may represent repairs and additions made over time as the earlier roofs deteriorated. The 1870 log building had a fascia board which hid the ends of the purlins and ridgepole. Only one of the standing Leesburg buildings, Feature 20, has a fascia, but historic photographs show that at one time several others did, also. The foundation of the 1870 log building is not visible in the photograph, but, if it was like the remaining Leesburg buildings, the sill log was laid directly on the ground or rested on an occasional rock. Finally, the placement of buildings very close together along the street was apparently "the rule," at the west end of town, as illustrated in historic photographs, a sketch map dating to the early twentieth century, and the standing and archaeological remains of buildings at Leesburg. Buildings were more widely spaced toward the east end of town.

No buildings with false-fronts, such as the one illustrated in the 1870 photograph, remain at Leesburg. However, at least one or two other commercial buildings shown in later historic photographs had false-fronts with clapboard siding, possibly over log walls. These were David McNutt's store (built in 1867) and the saloon/stage stop (date unknown).<sup>16</sup> The latter building is almost identical to the one in the 1870 photo, and may be the same building. A third Leesburg business, a Chinese laundry, had clapboard siding nailed to the gabled front of a log building.<sup>17</sup> None of the residential buildings shown in the historic photographs had siding over the log walls.

Of the 18 buildings for which some construction attributes remain or were previously recorded and for which actual or estimated dates of construction could be determined, seven are in the group of Leesburg's oldest; they were probably built before 1890. Nine buildings were probably erected between 1890 and 1908, and two others in the mid-1930s.

There are no obvious differences between those buildings thought to have been built between the 1860s and 1890 and those built between 1890 and 1908. Buildings of either age might have saddle, square, and/or steeples corner notching. The pitch of older roofs averaged almost 6:12, while that of the turn-of-the century buildings averaged only slightly less at about 5:12.

One of the older buildings at Leesburg is noteworthy because of its construction materials. Feature 18, a boardinghouse built in the 1880s or earlier, is unusual because the logs are actually 3-4 inch-thick waney-edge cants, square-notched at the corners. The double entry doors resemble those of the false-fronted commercial buildings illustrated in historic photographs.

The two log buildings erected in the mid-1930s (Features 10 and 12) are clearly of a different era than the others in Leesburg. Feature 10 is a large (730 square feet), L-shaped, multi-roomed house built in 1937. With the exception of the hotel (Feature 17), all other buildings are smaller, rectangular in plan, and have only one or two rooms instead of four. The house's windows are, on the average, wider and shorter than most others. The roof pitch is about 3½:12, and one of the gable ends is made of horizontal boards instead of logs. The roof is covered with rolled asphalt roofing.

The log schoolhouse (Feature 12), built in 1935, has double-hung windows, as many of the other Leesburg buildings had at one time, but the use of half-log trim around them is a unique feature reflecting the Craftsman style. The roof has a 4½:12 pitch, and is composed of a log ridge pole and purlins, sheathed with boards, over which has been nailed roofing felt and sheet metal.

A final aspect of Leesburg's architecture which has been examined is the question of Chinese influence on design and/or materials. Because original construction by Chinese people cannot be demonstrated for any of the three buildings,<sup>18</sup> however, the studies are inconclusive. One source made a detailed examination of a wide-range of architectural attributes, including fenestration placement and size, log notching and finishing, and roof construction, at Features 6, 13, and 14--all occupied by Chinese people. The one characteristic which the three buildings shared was the placement and size of the fenestration on the facade.<sup>19</sup> The door was placed to the right of center and a single window left of center.<sup>20</sup> Also, the logs on the facade of Features 13 and 14

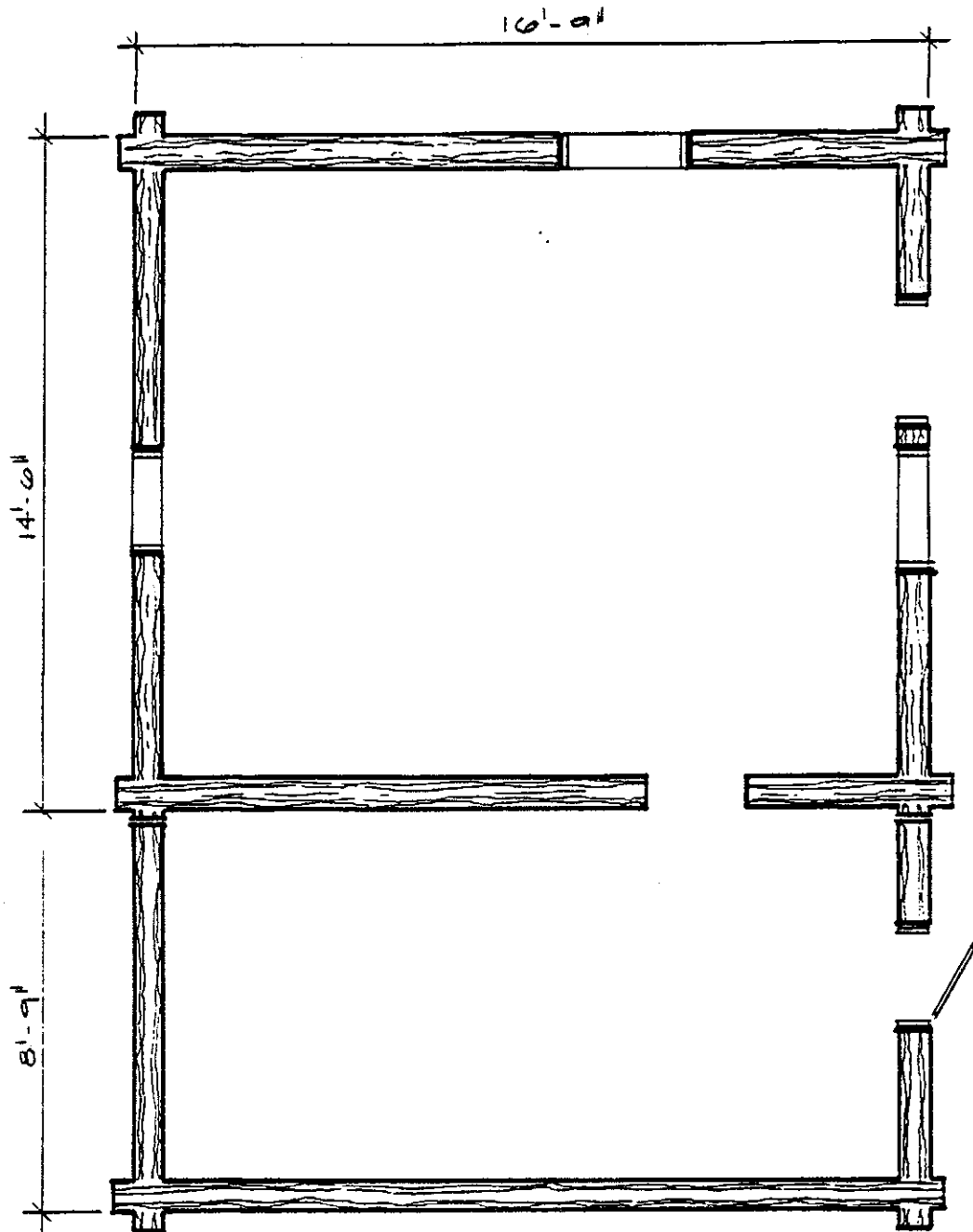
have been hewn on the exterior. Historic photographs show the facade of Feature 6 covered with siding; the structural remains suggest that hewn logs underlay the siding.

### III. DESCRIPTION OF THE LEESBURG TOWNSITE

Today the town of Leesburg consists of 24 buildings in various stages of collapse. In addition, there are a few other associated features, including the cemetery, three possible stone ovens, nine dumps, historical archaeological remains, and several ditches. The buildings line either side of Leesburg's main street, which is oriented east-west. The town stands on rocky but level ground immediately above and to the north of a large, open meadow. Camp Creek, which runs just west of the townsite, flows into Napias Creek about 600 feet southeast of Leesburg. The cemetery lies on a hill on the opposite or west side of Camp Creek about 350 feet from the town. The extant remains represent the range of construction episodes at Leesburg, various building functions, and occupation by both Euro-American and Chinese residents.

Situated at the west end of town on the north side of the street, Feature 1<sup>21</sup> is a one room, saddle-notched log building with a saddle-notched log lean-to addition on the west side. It measures 14 feet 6 inches by 16 feet 9 inches, and the addition is 8 feet 9 inches wide. The walls are chinked with split wood wedges on the interior and daubed with mud on the exterior. The building has a front gable with a combination roof composed of log purlins, split poles, dirt, purlins, boards, and batten. Built at a 6:12 slope, the roof extends 3 feet 8 inches beyond the plane of the front wall. Access to the interior is through a single doorway on the facade situated to the right of center. There is a single window opening in the north, east, and south walls. A narrow doorway in the west wall links the main room to the addition. The addition was constructed of reused logs, as indicated by notching at places other than corners. The addition has a shed roof which was built as an extension of the main roof. As a consequence, the "ceiling" is low. The shed roof is made of boards laid parallel to the slope of the roof and resting on log purlins. The building has a dirt floor and no foundation is visible. The building was once heated by a stove which stood in the front left (southwest) corner.

The use of wire nails throughout the building suggests a construction date after about 1890. A 1908 map of Leesburg illustrates a building (#2), probably this building, at the site which was owned by the Evan Stevan (or Stephens) estate. Feature 1 may be the building to which The Idaho Recorder referred in September of 1903 when it reported that Evan Stephens, who operated the Leesburg stage, had "purchased the store building formerly occupied by Fong Kee, and is preparing it to be used for an office and store room."<sup>22</sup> Three years later, the newspaper mentioned that someone was remodeling Evan Stephens' storeroom to be used as a saloon.<sup>23</sup> The building functioned as a residence in the 1930s and possibly earlier; in the mid-1930s it was occupied by Tom



**PLAN** ——— **SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"**  
**HOUSE** (Feature #1)



Hungate, "an old bachelor," who had mined and ranched in the Leesburg Basin since the turn of the century.<sup>24</sup>

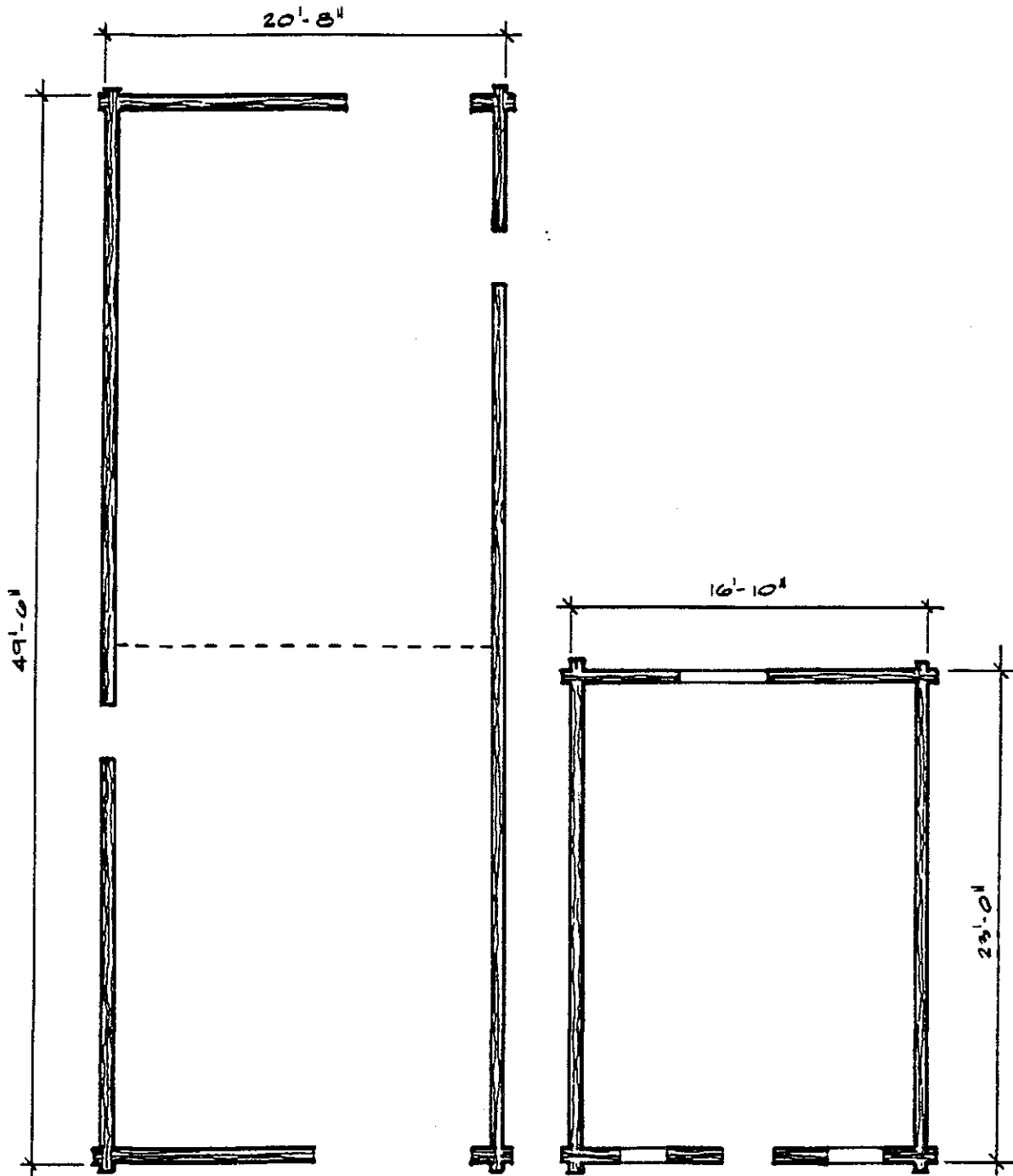
Feature 2 is a log stable measuring 49 feet 6 inches long by 20 feet 8 inches wide. The logs are square-notched at the corners, chinked with split wood wedges and poles on the interior and exterior, and daubed with mud on the exterior. Originally, the east and west walls were supported at three places on each side by a pair of vertical posts, one post on the interior and the opposite on the exterior. The front gable roof has a steep,  $8\frac{1}{2}$ :12 pitch. It is composed of two layers of boards on log purlins. The gable ends are logs covered with vertical boards. The stable is divided into two rooms, the front room being  $23\frac{1}{2}$  feet long. The wall between the two has collapsed, but it appears that there was a doorway in the wall which connected the two rooms. Access to the front room is through a 7 foot  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide doorway right of center on the facade, and a person door on the west wall adjacent to the interior wall. The back room also has two doorways. A person door is located in the east wall near the northeast corner of the building and a 6 foot 10 inch wide doorway is in the north wall near the same corner. A portion of the floor in the back room is made of poles laid side by side. A  $2\frac{1}{2}$  foot wide trough between sections of the pole floor appears to have run the length of the room, dividing it approximately in half.

The age of the stable is uncertain. It is apparently shown on the 1908 map of Leesburg (#3) and one source reports finding a scrap of an 1873 newspaper attached to the interior wall.<sup>25</sup> While the structure most recently functioned as a stable, another source notes that it was earlier used as a saloon.<sup>26</sup>

Feature 3 is a saddle-notched log building measuring 16 feet 10 inches by 23 feet. The interior rear wall has been hewn, but all other log surfaces remain round. The building is chinked with split wood wedges and cloth and daubed with mud. The central doorway on the facade is flanked by single windows. According to historic photographs, these windows were once double hung, multi-pane units.<sup>27</sup> The only other window is located just right of the center of the back wall and is 4 feet wide. The front gable roof, with a  $7\frac{1}{2}$ :12 pitch, has collapsed; the combination roof, which rested on purlins and a double ridge pole, is still visible, however. A late 1930s photograph of Leesburg shows the building with a board roof and fascia board.<sup>28</sup>

The use of cut nails in the door and window jambs indicates that the building was constructed before about 1890. Monte Colwell, who operated the stage between Salmon and Leesburg, used the building as his office<sup>29</sup> in the 1910s or 1920s.

Feature 4 is a completely-collapsed, square-notched log building which stood immediately behind Feature 3. It measured 15 feet 9 inches by about 17 feet 4 inches. The walls were chinked on the interior with split poles. The fenestration is difficult to



**PLAN** ——— **SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"**  
**STABLE** (Feature #2)  
**STAGE OFFICE** (Feature #3)

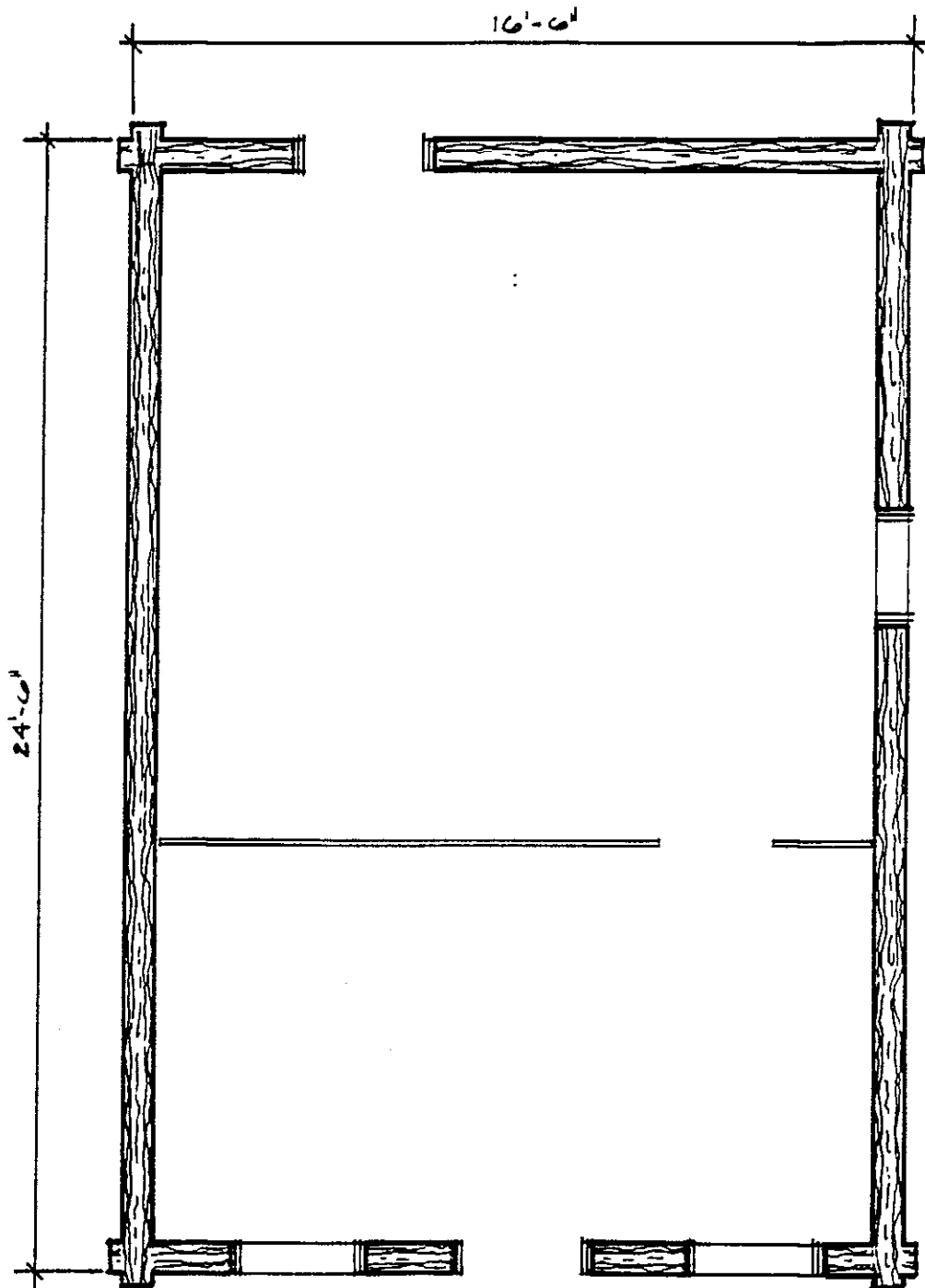
determine from the remains, but there was a door just right of center on the north (front?) wall, and a single window to the left of the doorway. On either side of the building toward the north wall is a single opening which may have been a door or window (field observations suggest the former). Cut nails were used throughout the building, indicating its construction before about 1890.

Feature 5 is a collapsed dugout which lies behind Features 2 and 4. The entrance to the feature, probably a root cellar, faces south toward Feature 4. The size of the depression suggests that the structure measured 19 feet wide by 21 feet long. The lack of historic photographs, other historic accounts, associated artifacts, and structural materials other than dirt and rock makes it impossible to determine a date of construction.

Feature 6 is an almost completely-collapsed, steeple-notched log building which housed a Chinese laundry. It measured about 22 feet 2 inches by 16 feet 8½ inches. What logs remain were hewn on the interior and exterior. Historic photographs taken between about 1908 and 1928 show a front gable roof building covered with clapboard siding, and having a door on the facade just right of the center and a single window to the left. The roof had a 7:12 pitch and appears to have been covered with dirt. The scant physical remains indicate another door at the rear of the building, also right of center, and a door or window in the west wall just left of center. The remains and historic photographs also show a break in the front wall right or east of the doorway. The break may mark the location of a door or tall window which was later covered with logs.

Archaeological testing at Feature 6 indicated that both cut and wire nails were used at this building, suggesting a pre-1890 date of construction.<sup>30</sup> During the early twentieth century, the building served as a Chinese laundry owned by Bu Kee, a long-time Leesburg resident and one of the last Chinese to reside in the town.<sup>31</sup>

Feature 7 was a steeple-notched log building that was destroyed by fire in 1990. It measured 24 feet 6 inches by 16 feet 6 inches. The front door was at the center of the facade and there was a double hung window to either side. A 1908 photograph shows that the windows were 2/2 units. There was also a door in the rear wall at the far right and a window in the east wall right of center. The 6:12 pitch, front gable roof was a composition roof made of log purlins and ridge pole on which rested pole rafters and planks. A tin ridge cap covered the peak. The interior was divided into two rooms; the front room was slightly shorter than the back (about 8 feet 9 inches deep). The floor was of wood, but when recorded in 1982 only the joists in the rear room remained. A free-standing plank wall extending north of the building from the east wall may have been the remains of a lean-to addition. The wall was about 5 feet long.



**PLAN** ——— **SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"**  
**HOUSE** (Feature #7)

The presence of both wire and cut nails in the door jambs suggests construction by about 1890. The building is shown in a 1908 photograph and map of Leesburg. At that time it had a boardwalk and picket fence in front and was occupied by Thomas McClung.<sup>32</sup>

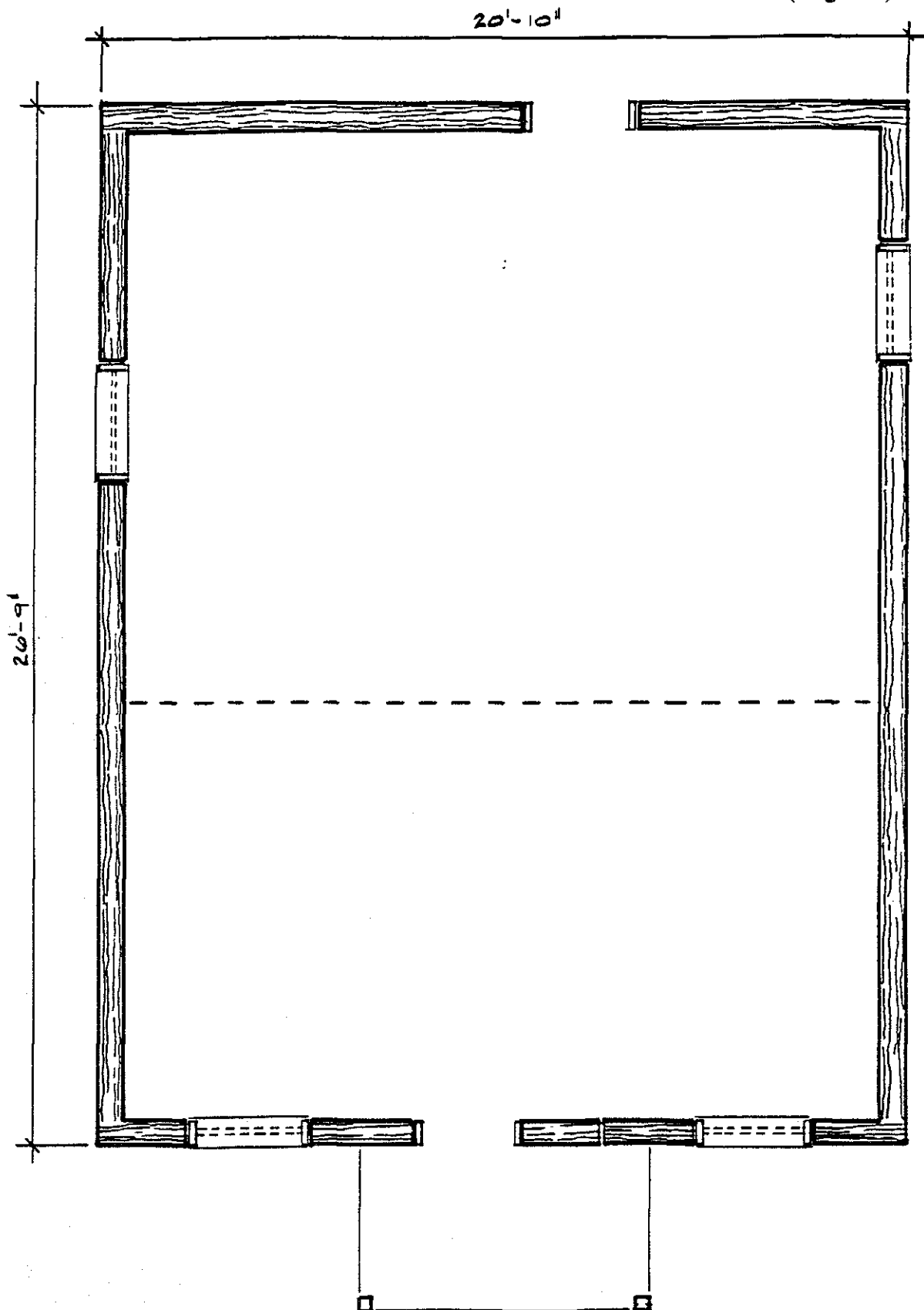
Feature 8 is a privy which stands behind Feature 6. It measures 5 feet 1 inch wide by 5 feet 5 inches long. The remaining walls are constructed of half-logs with the rounded side toward the exterior. The logs are square-notched at the back corners. The front wall is missing, but the ends of the logs on the sides are not notched there but are butted against a 2 x 6 post at each corner. Battens on the exterior are 1-inch thick boards of variable width. The roof has collapsed and its original configuration cannot be determined. This was a single-hole outhouse; the wooden bench and seat remain but have collapsed.

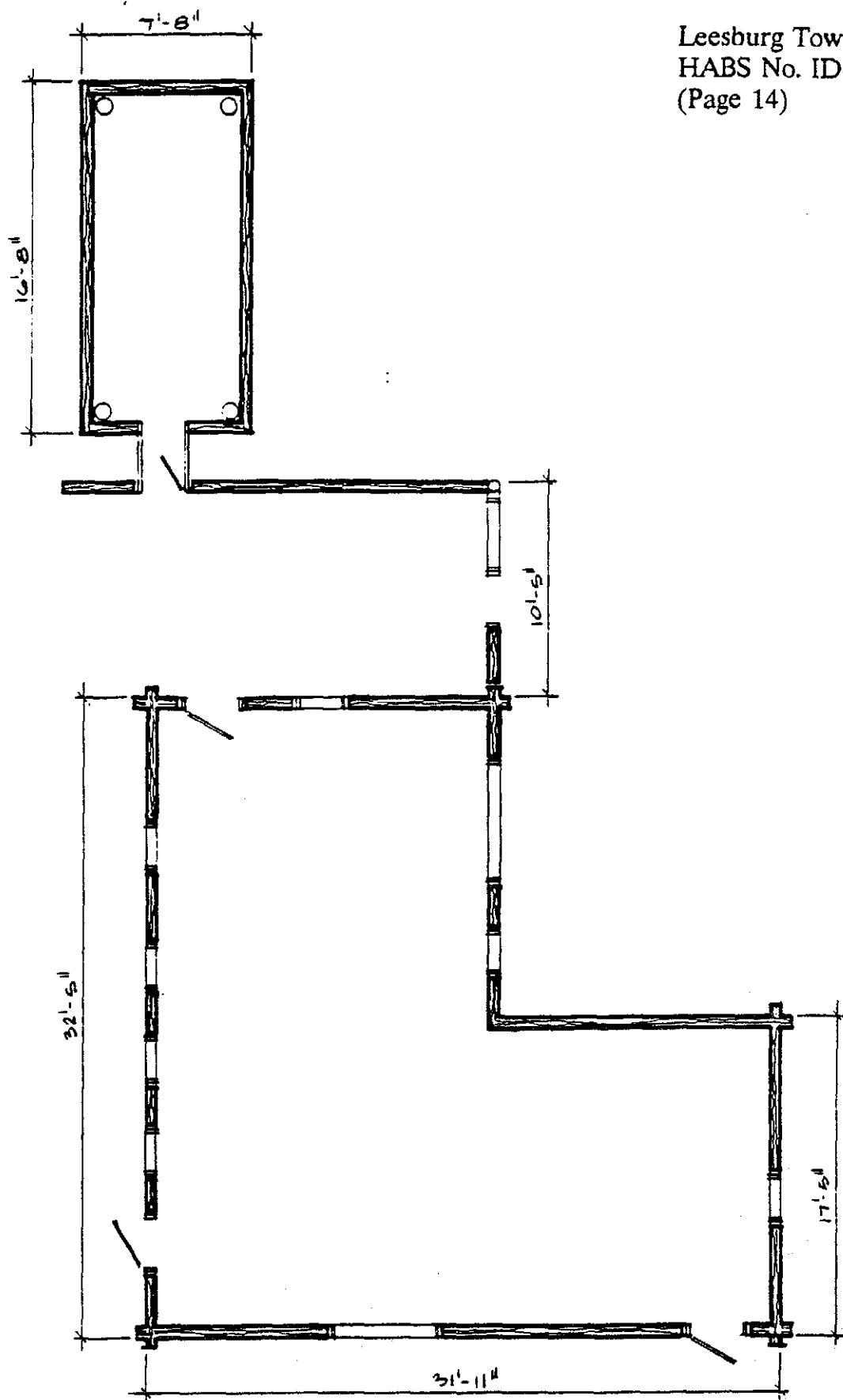
The use of wire nails throughout the structure and construction materials uncommon at Leesburg (half-logs and 2 x 6 posts at the front corners) suggest a 1930s building date.

Feature 9 is a two-room, square-notched log building in about the center of town on the north side of the main street. The former butcher shop and freight depot measures 26 feet 9 inches by 20 feet 10 inches. This is a well-built building, having spacers between hewn wall logs at a few places along the north, east, and west walls to keep them from sagging. The wall interiors are chinked with split wood wedges. The front gable, 9½:12 pitch roof is made of wood shakes nailed to board sheathing on 2 x 6 rafters. The gable ends are vertical boards. The center doorway on the facade is sheltered by a small, open porch supported by two plain, square posts. There was a double-hung window on either side of the doorway. There is also a doorway on the rear wall just to the left of the center and one window each on the side walls near the rear of the building. The front room measures 10 feet 9 inches deep and is narrower than the other room. A doorway connected the two rooms (the interior wall has been removed). There are two holes in the roof for stovepipes, both on the west side of the building, one in each room. The wood floor is made of 3½ inch tongue-and-groove boards on floor 2 x 6 joists set on 21½ to 27-inch centers.

This building was apparently built in 1901 by Willard Rood for use as a butcher shop. Rood had a beef ranch on Panther Creek from which he supplied the meat for his Leesburg shop. Later, O.E. Kirkpatrick used the building for a freight depot.<sup>33</sup>

Feature 10 is an L-shaped, saddle-notched log house with a log addition on the rear which connects it to a root cellar (Feature 11). The main building has maximum dimensions of 31 feet 11 inches and 32 feet 5 inches. The roof is of two different pitches; the east-west-facing roof has a 4½:12 pitch and the north-south 3:12. The roof





**PLAN** ——— **SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"**  
 HOUSE (Feature #10)  
 ROOT CELLAR (Feature #11)

consists of log purlins, board sheathing, red rolled roofing, plywood, and rolled asphalt roofing. The gable ends are of horizontal boards or logs. There are three exterior doors in the main section of the building, one each on the north, west, and south walls. The north door leads into the addition. Windows are located on all sides of the building, numbering 11 in the main section. The interior has been divided into four rooms, perhaps during recent (early 1980s) occupation.

The rear addition measures 10 feet 5 inches wide by 17 feet 5 inches to 24 feet. The log addition had a post at the northeast corner and no west wall. The gable roof is the only connecting, structural element between the west edge of the main house with the west edge of the root cellar. It is covered with sheet metal. There is an exterior doorway on the east end just to the left of the center and windows on the east and north walls.

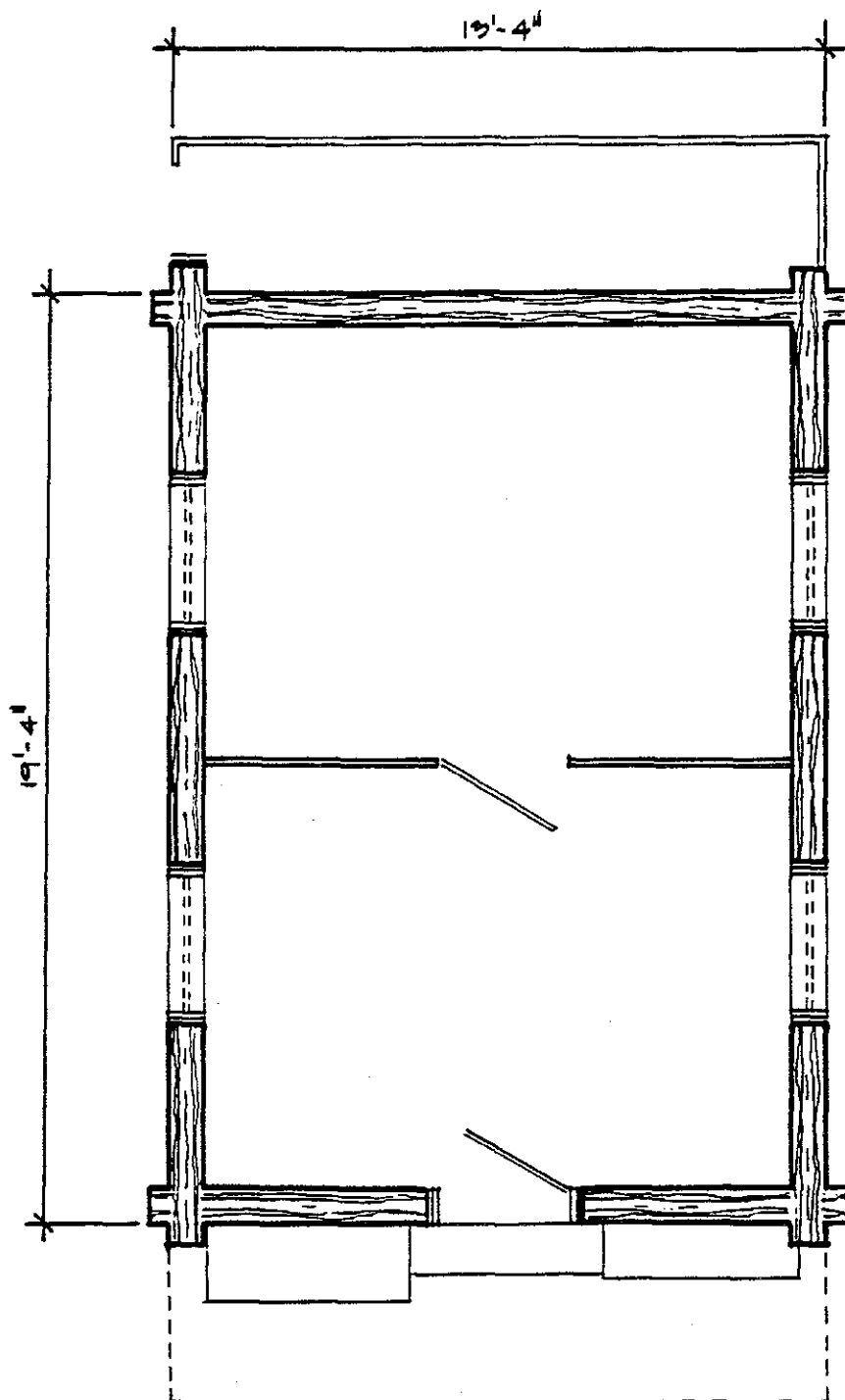
The Feature 10 house was built in 1937 by Mike and Maud Fraker. It was also used as a post office. The family continued to live in Leesburg, at first year-round, and later seasonally, until the 1950s. Feature 10 replaced an earlier log building which stood on this site at least since 1905.<sup>34</sup>

Feature 11 is a root cellar located behind Feature 10. It measures 7 feet 8 inches by 16 feet 8 inches. It is made of logs hewn on the interior and chinked with split wood wedges. Posts in each of the four corners support the walls and several posts elsewhere inside the building support the low gable, dirt-covered roof. A vent rises from the rear roof near the northwest corner. Low shelves line the west, north, and part of the east walls. The entryway at the south end of the cellar, only 4 feet 9 inches high, is 3 feet 9 inches deep and lined with boards. The top of the root cellar was fenced at one time.

Although there is no historical documentation of the age of Feature 11, its proximity to Feature 10 suggests that it too was built in the mid-1930s. However, the hewn log walls and offset location may indicate earlier construction.

Feature 12 is a two-room, saddle-notched log schoolhouse with a narrow, vertical board addition on the rear. The main section measures 19 feet 4 inches by 13 feet 4 inches. The walls are chinked on the interior with split wood wedges and daubed on the exterior with mud. The front gable roof has a 4½:12 pitch and consists of log purlins and ridge pole covered by board sheathing, then roofing felt, and sheet metal. The latter is likely a recent addition to the original roof. The roof extends about 3½ feet past the front wall, creating a slight overhang. A false gable end, made of horizontal boards, is attached to the end of the overhang. A single drip board is attached to the false gable end by metal straps. The exterior door is at the approximate center of the facade. A wood stoop flanked by benches lies outside the front door. There are two 6/6 double-hung windows on both the east and west sides. The door and windows are trimmed with





**PLAN** ——— **SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"**  
**SCHOOLHOUSE** (Feature #12)

half-poles. A wall divides the interior into two rooms of roughly the same size, but this division of space may post-date use of the building as a schoolhouse. Stove pipe holes are in the far right-hand corner of the rear room, and in the far left-hand corner in the front room. A free-standing, 3 foot 4 inch long board wall extends south from the southwest corner of the building; it is not original.

The small addition on the rear of the building is made of 7½ to 10-inch wide by 1½ thick boards set vertically. It covers the entire width of the building and is 2 feet 7 inches wide. There are no windows or doors; the west side is completely open, however. The addition has a board floor.

Feature 12 was built in 1935 as a schoolhouse. It served that function for only a few years. One former student remembers as many as 20 students attending school there at one time.<sup>35</sup> The addition may post-date the historic period.

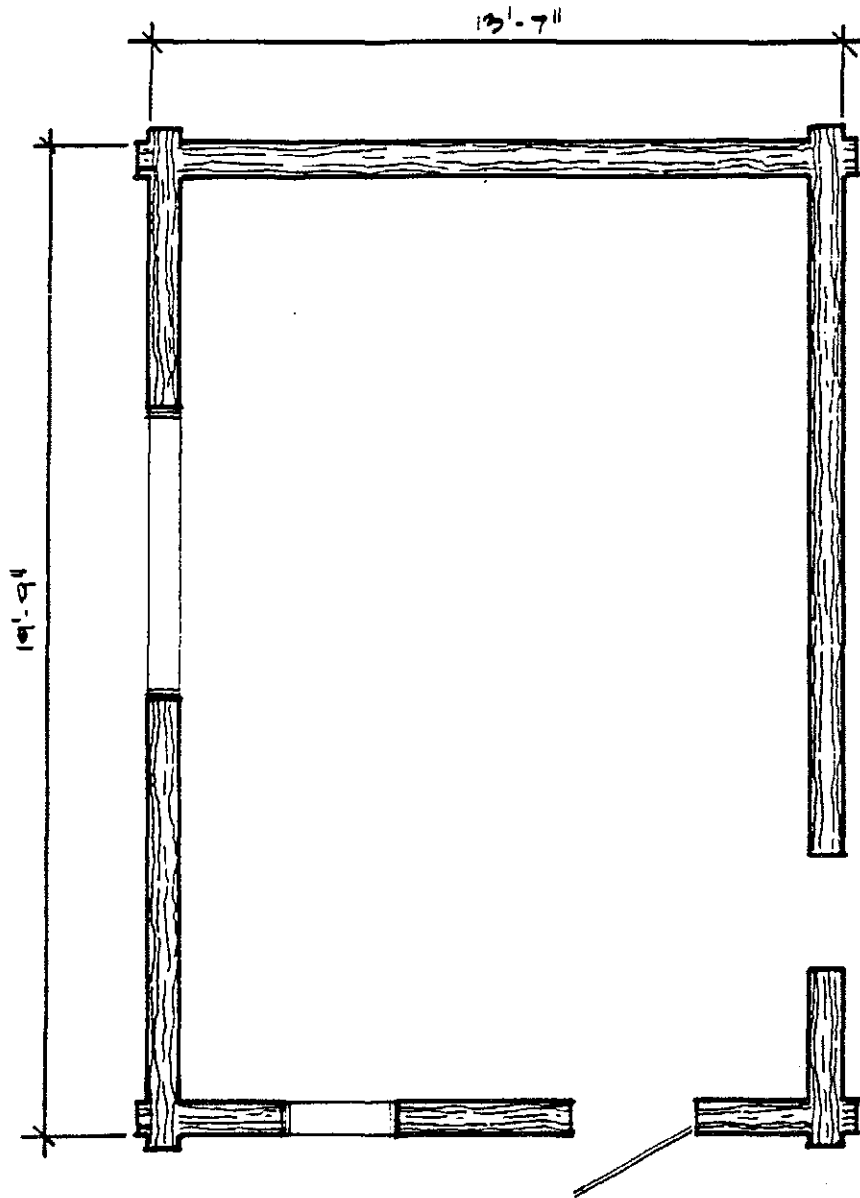
Feature 13 is a steeple- and square-notched log building which measures 13 feet 7 inches by 19 feet 9 inches. The logs have been hewn on the facade (except the bottom three logs left of the doorway) and on the interior south (front) wall.<sup>36</sup> They are daubed with mud on the exterior. The front gable roof has a 5:12 pitch. Resting on log purlins and ridge pole, the composition roof is made of half-poles, dirt, purlins, horizontal boards, and vertical boards (from bottom to top). A hole for a stove pipe pierces the roof near the center of the east side of the building. The front, paneled door is right of center; a small window is left of center on the facade. A second door, made of vertical boards, is located in the east wall far left of center. There is one wide window opening each on the east and west walls. The floor is made of boards laid edge to edge.

Chinese characters have been drawn on the logs of the interior south wall. These have been interpreted as labeling on each log which records its position on the wall. information used in the construction or reconstruction of the building.<sup>37</sup>

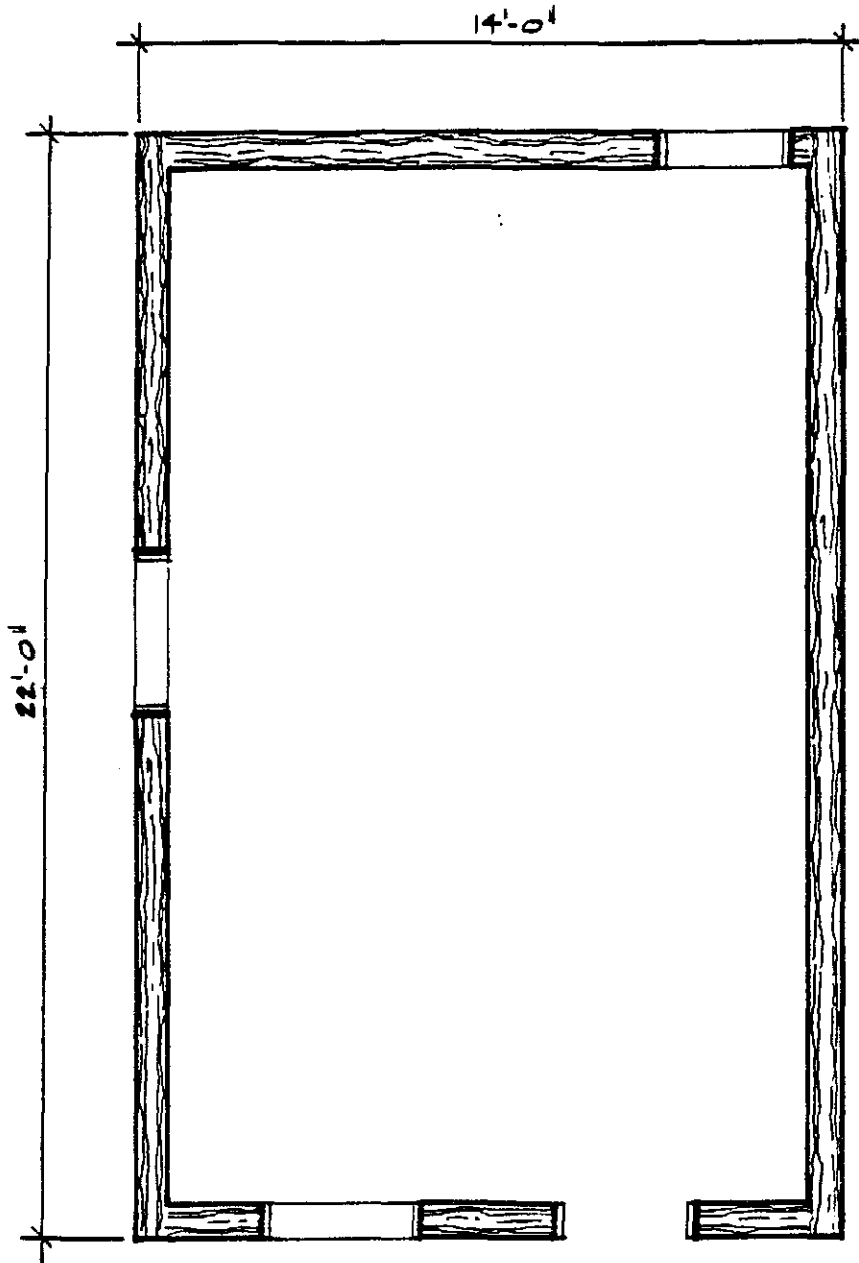
Pieces of wallpaper with a patent number which dates to 1934<sup>38</sup> also are located on the interior walls. The paper clearly post-dates Chinese occupation of the building.

The use of both wire and cut nails in the building suggests a date of construction by 1890. This may be the building which was occupied by Harry Waters, a county tax assessor, when the 1908 map of Leesburg was drawn.<sup>39</sup> In the 1930s, the house was occupied by Mrs. Price who was Maud Fraker's mother (see Feature 10).<sup>40</sup>

Feature 14 is a square-notched log building which measures 14 feet by 22 feet. The logs are hewn on the interior and on the front exterior wall. They are chinked with split wood wedges on the interior and daubed with mud on the exterior. The only doorway is right of center on the facade. (In 1982, a one-light cross-panel door hung in



**PLAN** ——— **SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"**  
**CABIN** (Feature #13)



**PLAN** ——— **SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"**  
**CABIN** (Feature #14)

this opening.) There are three windows, one on the facade left of center, one near the center of the west wall, and one on the north wall near the northeast corner. The front gable, 6:12 pitch roof is composed of log purlins and ridgepole, split poles, dirt, purlins, and boards. It is supported by round posts under the ridge pole at the front and under the lowest purlin in the southeast corner of the building. Other vertical posts support the ends of the plates at either gable end. Additional posts once probably supported the ridge pole and lower purlins at the rear of the building.

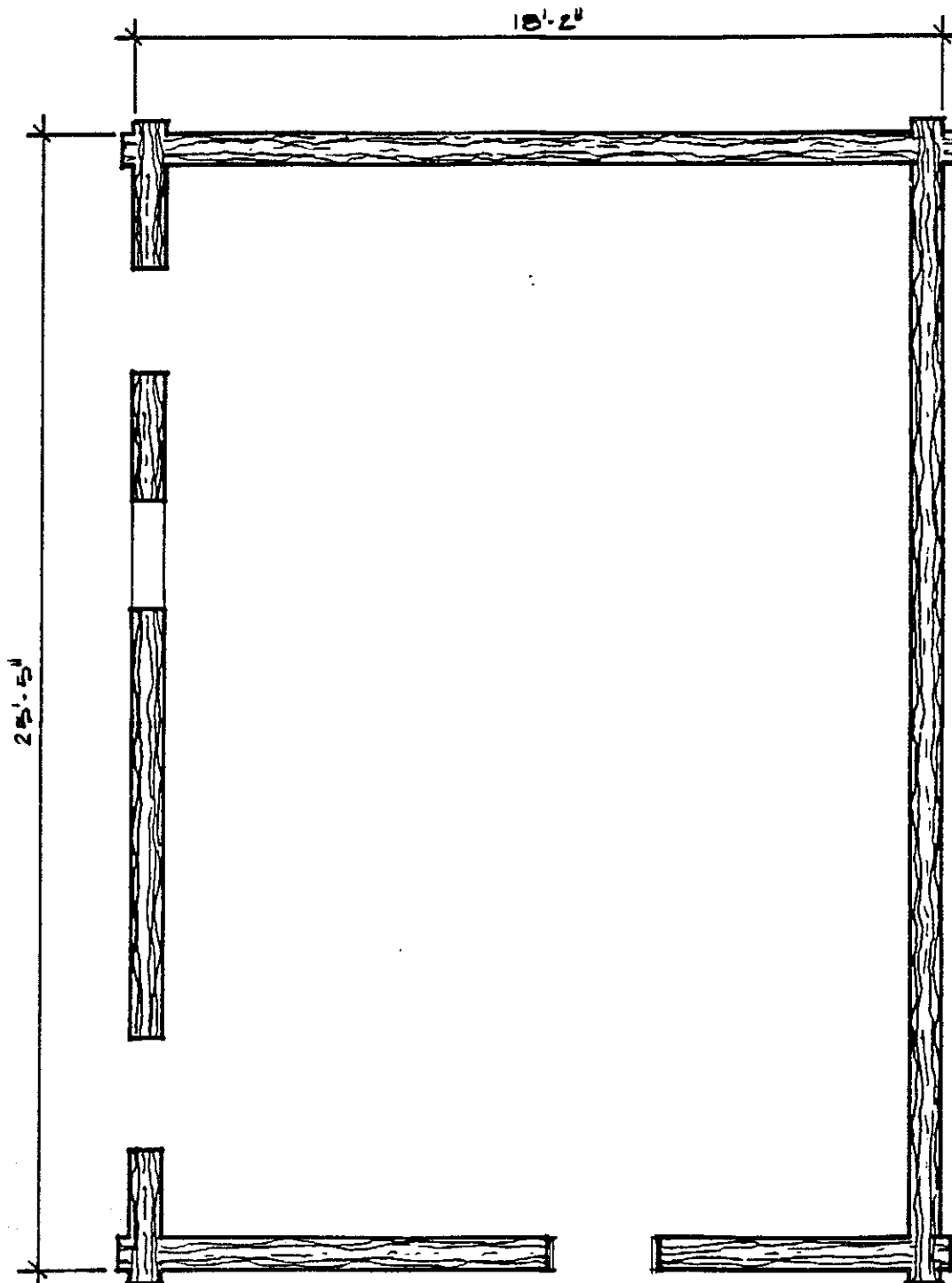
The south, west, and north interior walls have Chinese characters printed on them. (The east wall may have had the same but has completely collapsed.) These characters are similar to those at Feature 13, including mostly numbers and location ("front") and/or direction ("left" or "right"). They also are interpreted as directions for constructing or reconstructing the building.<sup>41</sup>

Both cut and wire nails have been found at the building,<sup>42</sup> suggesting construction by 1890. As mentioned in a previous section, the building was probably moved to this location from another site in the Leesburg Basin. The use of cut nails to attach the split wood chinking to the interior walls suggests that the move also was made by 1890.

The building was occupied in the 1930s by Dan Fry (or Frey), an old bachelor who had lived in the Leesburg area since at least the turn of the century. In his younger years, Fry held various jobs with mining companies in the basin and also had one or more contracts to make charcoal for them.<sup>43</sup>

The last building on the north side of Leesburg's main street at the east edge of town is Feature 15. It is a square-notched log building, measuring 18 feet 2 inches by 25 feet 5 inches. It has a front gable roof with a 4½:12 pitch which is composed of a log ridge pole and purlins, split poles, dirt, and purlins. The top layer of roofing is no longer apparent because of its collapsed condition. A doorway just right of center is the only fenestration on the facade. On the west side, there are two doors, one near either corner, and a window left of center. A historic photograph of the house (see below) indicates that what now appears as the doorway at the far right may actually have been a double-hung window. There are no windows or doors in the rear wall, and the east wall is too collapsed to determine specific architectural features.

This house is probably the one which Ira Gable built for his family in 1903.<sup>44</sup> It is located about where an undated sketch map of Leesburg indicates that the house stood,<sup>45</sup> although correlation of physical remains with the sketched buildings is imperfect. Also, although Feature 15 is badly deteriorated, it strongly resembles Gable's house as shown in an undated historic photograph.<sup>46</sup> Later, the house was occupied by the Fitzgerald family who moved to Leesburg from Boise to mine during the Depression. The Fitzgeralds lived there between 1935 and about the beginning of World War II.<sup>47</sup>



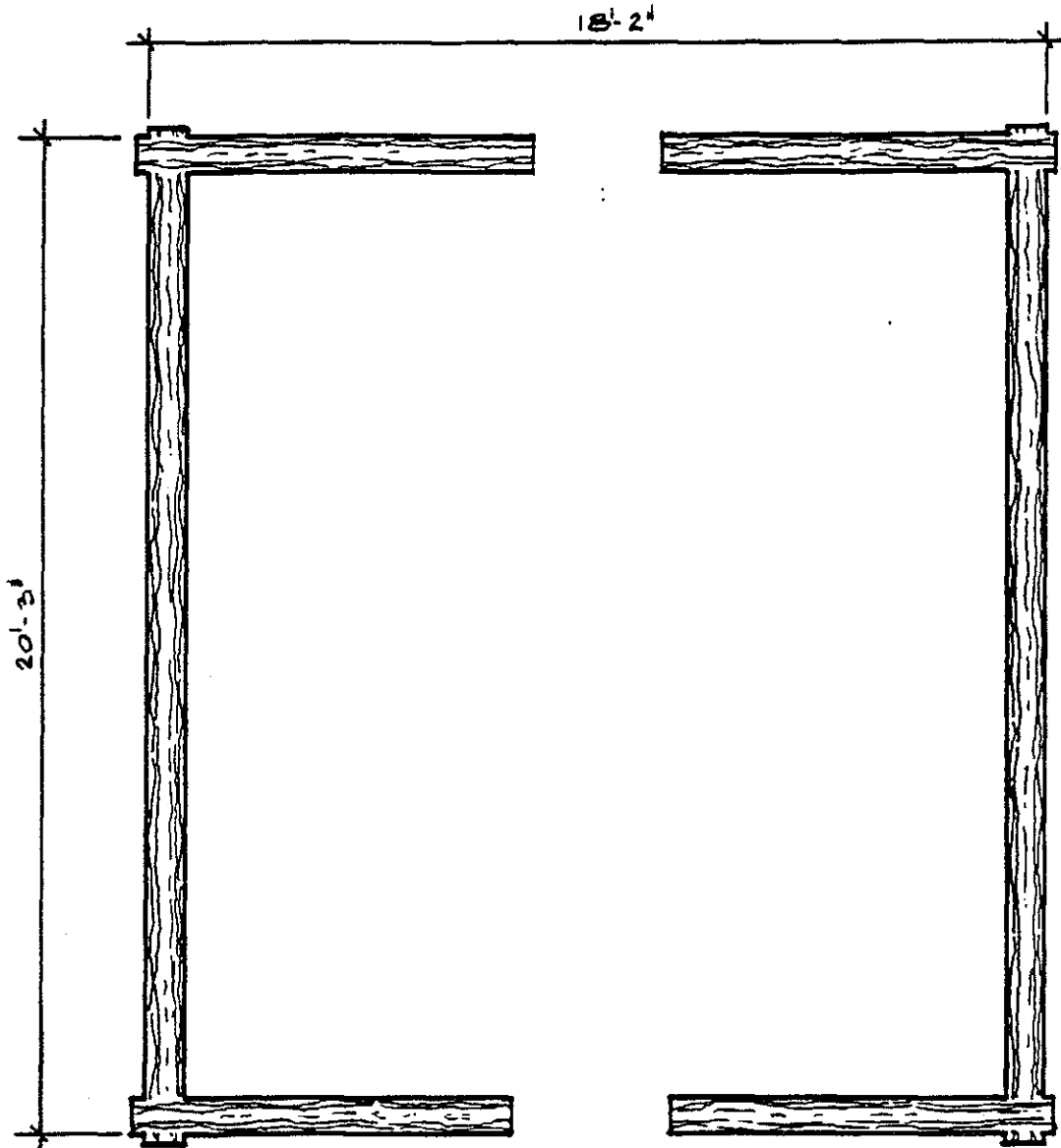
**PLAN** ——— **SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"**  
**HOUSE** (Feature #15)

Feature 16 is the farthest east building on the south side of the main street. It is a square-notched log building, measuring 18 feet 2 inches by 20 feet 3 inches. The front gable roof has a 2:12 pitch and rests on log purlins and double ridge pole. Mostly collapsed, it may have been a combination roof, but now only split poles remain. There are two doorways to the building, one at the center of the north and south sides. There are no windows.

Because wire nails were used almost exclusively in the building, its date of construction is estimated as some time after 1890. The structure is shown on the 1908 map of Leesburg where it is labeled as the laundry owned by Alice Mahoney, proprietor of the Leesburg Hotel.<sup>48</sup> Like other Leesburg buildings, it served several different functions over time. Other sources note that the building was a spring house,<sup>49</sup> a function compatible with the lack of windows and its location in an area with a high water table. In the 1930s, the Fraker family (see Feature 10) used the building for storage.<sup>50</sup>

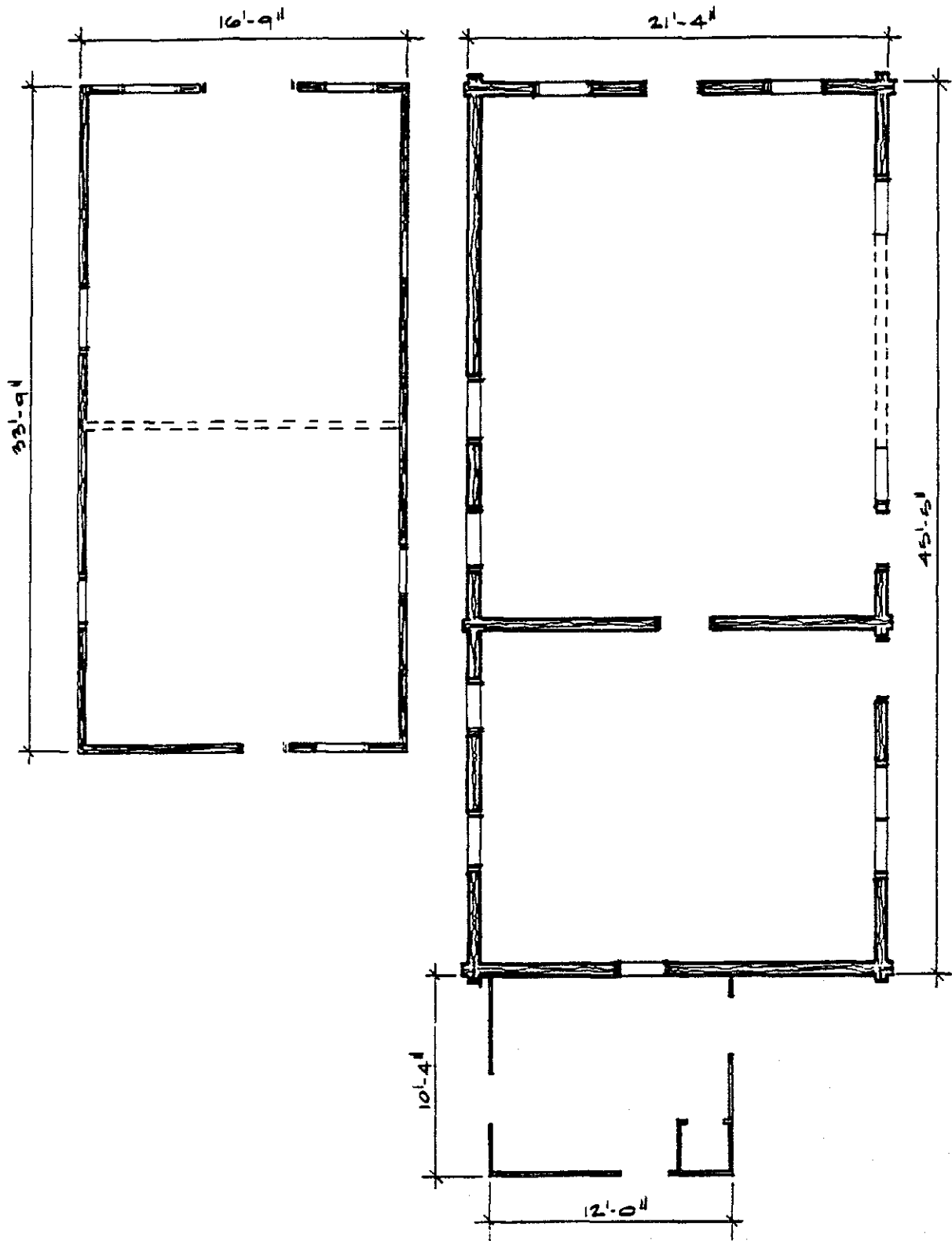
Feature 17 was the Leesburg Hotel. It is a large, log building with two additions at the rear. The main section, which measures 21 feet 4 inches by about 45 feet 5 inches, was built in two parts. The front crib, about 28 feet long, was apparently constructed first. There the log walls are steeple, square, and saddle-notched at the corners and daubed with mud. The roof over this section is a front gable, and, although completely collapsed, had a 4½:12 pitch, as measured on a 1930s photograph. The combination roof consisted of split poles, purlins, wood shakes, then vertical boards. The 1930s photograph shows a fascia board on the north gable end. A stove pipe pierced the roof near the southeast corner of the room. The rear crib, about 17 feet deep, is made of logs square-notched only. The roof is a shed roof which slopes to the rear of the building. A doorway is located in the center of the wall between the two sections. In the back crib are remnants of a wall which appears to have defined another small room (about 31 square feet) in the southeast corner. There are two exterior doors in the front room, one at the center of the facade and another toward the rear of the east wall. The latter was not original; a 1900 photograph of the building shows no door at that location.<sup>51</sup> On the facade, there is a window on either side of the central doorway; an undated historic photograph shows them to have been 6/6 double-hung units.<sup>52</sup> There are two windows each on the east and west sides of the front room. The only exterior door to the rear room is on the east side far right of center. On the same side of the building is a wide window (shown in the 1900 photo as one about half the size), there are two windows on the opposite side of the room, and one at the back near the center of the south wall.

The southernmost addition on the rear of Feature 17 is a wood-frame shed which measures 10 feet 4 inches by about 12 feet. It covers the south window in the rear room of the main section of the building. Access to the addition was gained by a door in the



**PLAN** ————— **SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"**  
**LAUNDRY/SPRINGHOUSE/STORAGE**  
**(Feature #16)**





**PLAN** ————— **SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"**  
**HOTEL & POST OFFICE** (Feature #17)  
**BOARDING HOUSE** (Feature #18)

east wall right of center. There is a single window in the south and west walls. A small closet was built into the southeast corner of the addition. All that remains of another addition is a series of five floor joists extending east from the east wall of the southernmost addition. These are almost 11 feet long.

At the front of the building is a board platform which measures about 5 feet long by 5½ feet wide. This is likely the stoop from the small porch which was added to the building in 1929 by the Leesburg Bonanza Placer Company.<sup>53</sup> The porch was open and narrow, covering only the front door. It had a board-covered gable roof and a hand-painted "POSTOFFICE" sign hanging on the board gable end. In addition to illustrating the porch, historic photographs taken sometime after 1900 show what appears to be a covered walkway between Features 16 and 17.<sup>54</sup> A small shed stood at the intersection of the hotel and the walkway; it appears to have covered the doorway in the east wall of the front room. It allowed sheltered access to the laundry (Feature 16) from the front room as well. Nothing of the walkway or shed's superstructures remains.

Feature 17 served as both the Leesburg Hotel and the post office from at least the turn of the century to 1937. Its age has not been determined, but both rooms of the main section of the hotel were standing by 1900.<sup>55</sup> One source identified several rooms or areas in the hotel. The post office and sitting room lay side by side just inside the front door. Behind these, going from north to south, were the lobby, dining room, and kitchen. The wood-frame addition at the rear of the hotel was a wood shed.<sup>56</sup>

Feature 18 stands adjacent to the Leesburg Hotel and, during the early twentieth century, was the boarding house portion of the hotel business. It is almost completely collapsed, but some measurements and construction features were recorded in 1982 when the building was more intact. Feature 18 is a square-notched log building which measures 33 feet 9 inches by 16 feet 9 inches. The logs on the front of the building are 3 and 4 inch waney cants, or two-sided planks, which have been sawn, instead of hand-hewn. The side logs are slabs of the same thickness. The notched corners, toe-nailed with cut nails, were hidden behind vertical posts at the front, and possibly rear, corners. The roof has completely collapsed, however it appears that it was a combination roof consisting of log purlins, split poles, dirt, and planks. Historic photographs show that it was a front gable roof with a 4:12 or 5:12 pitch. A fascia board covered the ends of the purlins at the front gable end.<sup>57</sup> The front doorway is double and centered on the north wall. It is flanked by a single, double hung window on each side. Historic photographs show these to be 2/2 units.<sup>58</sup> Other fenestration includes a rear door just right of center, a window to the right on the same wall, a single window (or door?) near the center of each side of the rear room, and a window in the west wall of the front room right of center. The building was divided into two rooms by an interior wall with a doorway connecting the two rooms in about the center of the wall.

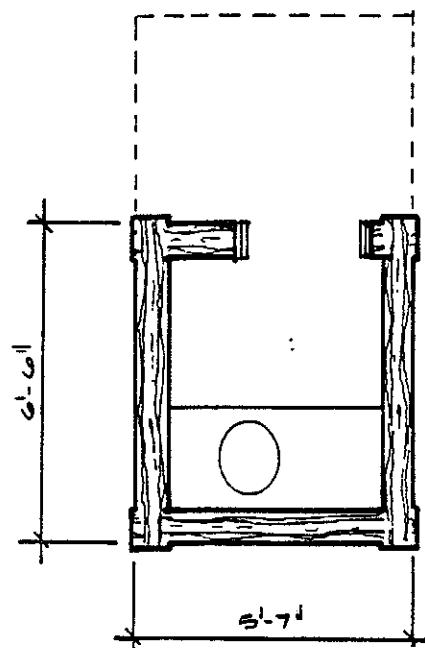
The configuration of the facade (windows flanking a central, double door), cut nails at the notched corners, and newspapers with 1880s dates attached to the interior walls indicate an 1880s or earlier date of construction.

Feature 19 is a one-hole outhouse which is situated behind Feature 20. It is a square-notched log building which measures 5 feet 7 inches by 6 feet 6 inches. The logs, both hewn and unhewn, have been chinked with split wood wedges and daubed with mud. The outhouse has a front gable roof. A double layer of planks rests on log purlins and ridge pole. The purlins extend 4 feet beyond the front wall. The front and only doorway is left of center. Both cut and wire nails were used at Feature 19, suggesting construction by 1890.

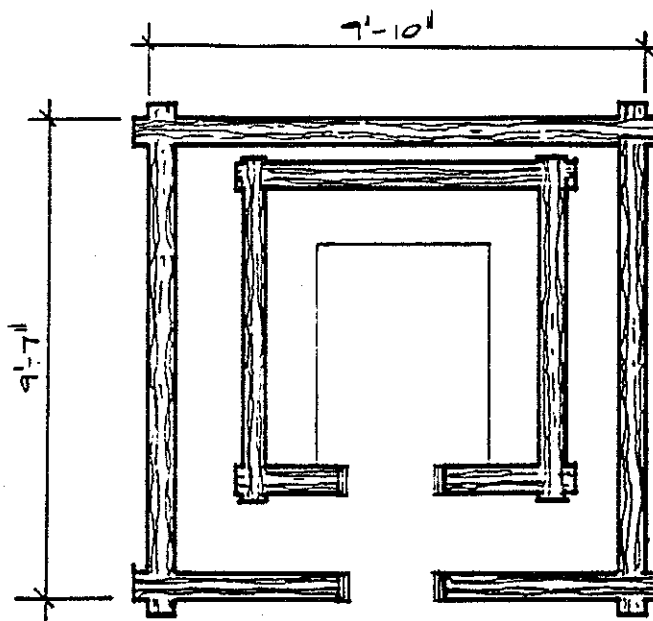
Feature 20 served as a butcher shop and, later, a workshop. It is a square-notched building which measures 17 feet 1 inches by 27 feet. The logs are hewn on the interior, chinked with split wood wedges, and daubed with mud. The front gable roof has a 7:12 pitch. A combination roof lies on a log ridge pole and purlins. It consists of split poles with small-diameter pole battens, purlins, dirt, and wood shakes. A fascia board covers the edges of the roof layers at the gable ends. A hole for the stove pipe has been cut into the roof near the southwest corner of the building. The only door in the building is a wide doorway which is centered in the facade and covers most of that wall. This doorway does not appear to be original; there was probably once a central person door flanked by double-hung windows. A remnant of the sill under the east window on the facade is evident. There are two windows on the west side of the building and one at the rear, left of center. Most of the wooden floor boards have been removed but the log joists remain. A wooden workbench which lies along the west wall at the rear of the building presumably dates from the workshop occupation.

The use of cut nails in the window jambs indicates construction before about 1890. The earliest known use of the building was as a butcher shop. In the late 1920s, when Bonanza Placer, Inc. obtained title to the south half of the town, the company converted the building to a workshop. It was probably at this time that the garage doorway was cut in the facade.<sup>59</sup>

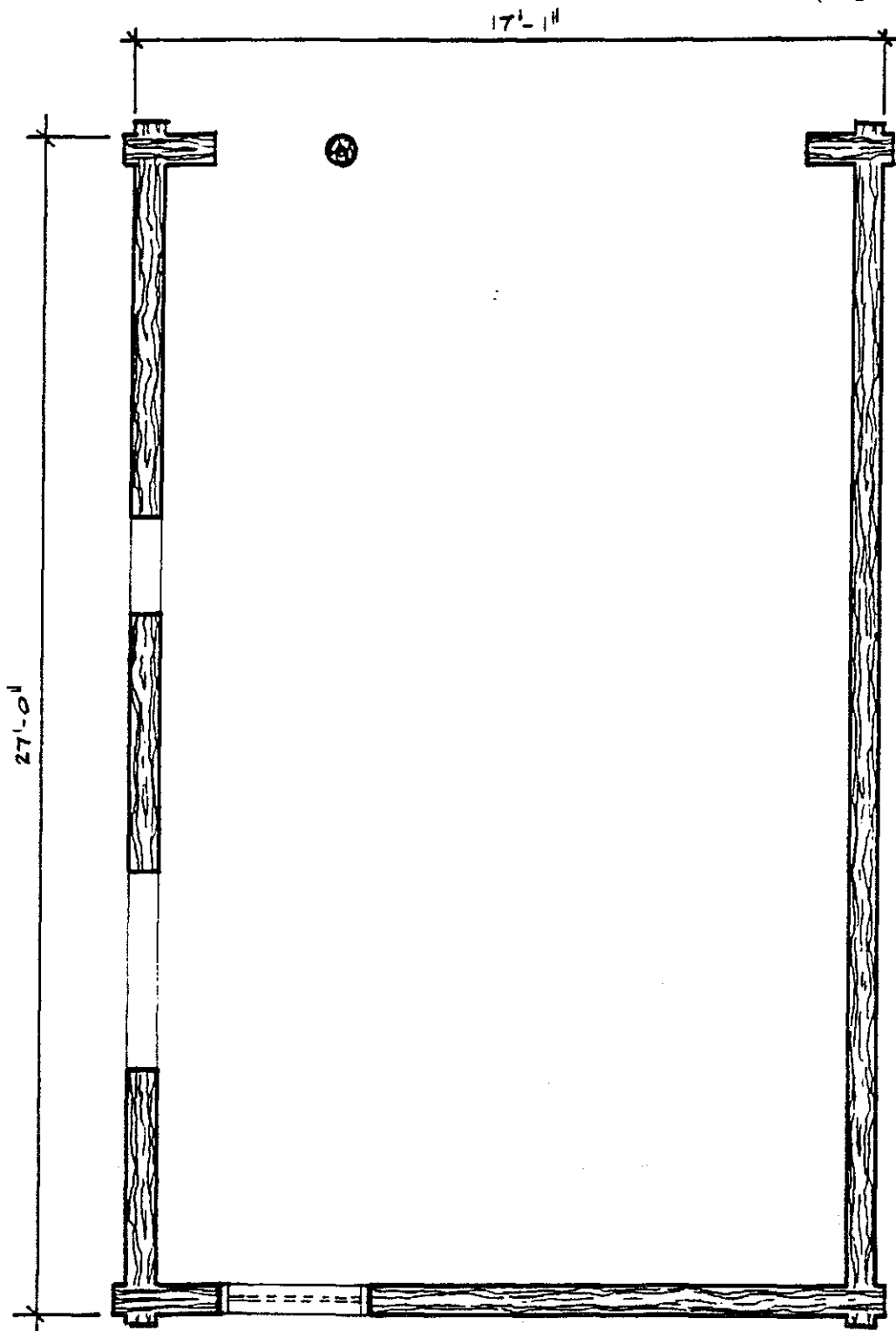
Feature 21 is a log chickenhouse situated immediately west of Feature 20. It faces south, or away from the main street. It is a square-notched log building which measures about 12 feet by 15 feet 2 inches. The walls are daubed with mud. The front gable roof has a 4½:12 pitch and is a combination roof resting on a double log ridge pole and purlins. The roof consists of split poles, dirt, purlins, and split poles. There is a stove pipe hole in the roof in the southeast corner of the building. The only fenestration is on the south side of the building. There is a door left of center and a single, fixed window (originally a four-light) right of center. In the east wall between the center and the



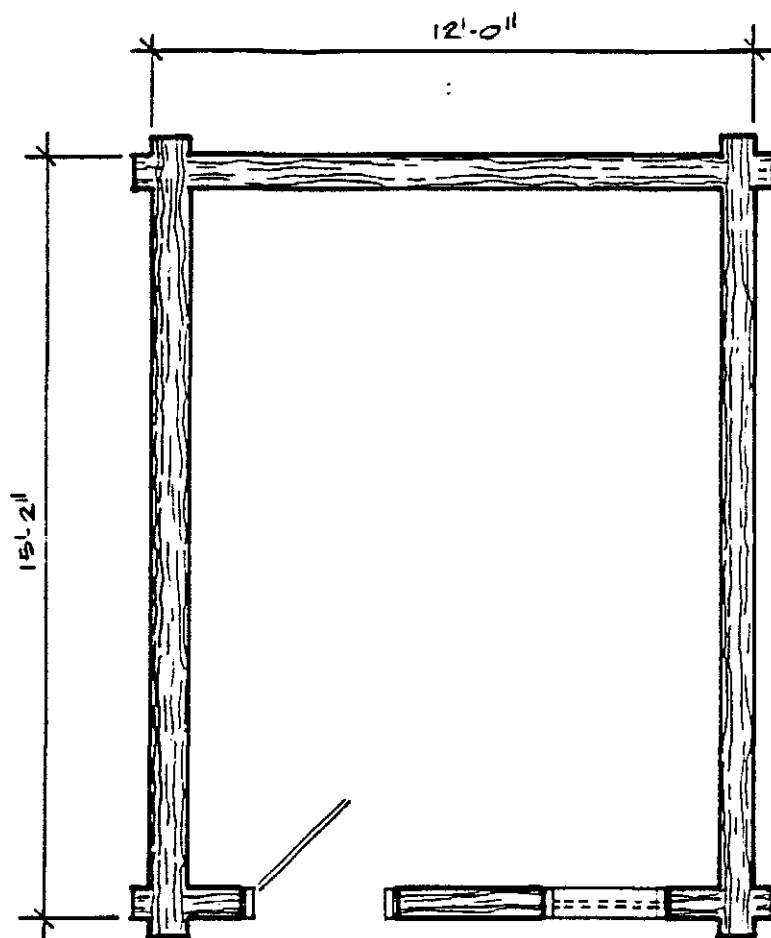
**PLAN** ——— **SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"**  
**PRIVY** (Feature #19)



**PLAN** ——— **SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"**  
**ROOT CELLAR** (Feature #24)



**PLAN** ——— **SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"**  
**BUTCHER SHOP/WORKSHOP**  
(Feature #20)



**PLAN** ——— **SCALE** 1/4" = 1'-0"  
**CHICKENHOUSE** (Feature #21)

southeast corner is a chick door at floor level. There is a board partition which extends south from the north wall about 4½ feet from the west wall.

Identification of the building as a chickenhouse is based on a 1946 map of the town<sup>60</sup> and the presence of a chick door. However, the substantial construction does not seem compatible with that function; it instead suggests that the building earlier served as a residence or commercial building. The age of Feature 21 is unknown, however the building stood at least as early as 1908 when it was drawn (unlabeled) on a map of Leesburg.<sup>61</sup>

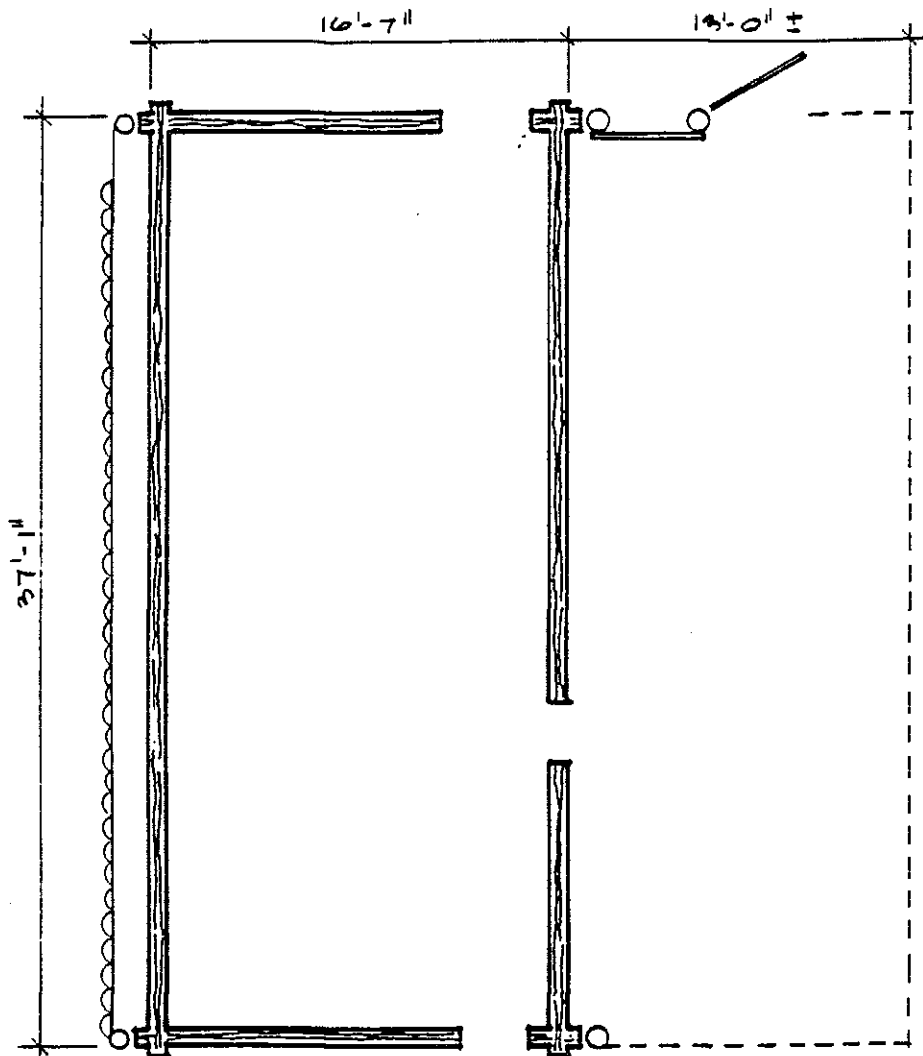
Feature 22 was attached to the east wall of Feature 23, and contained several horse stalls.<sup>62</sup> It is a wood-frame shed which has mostly collapsed. However, it ran the length of Feature 23 (37 feet), and was an estimated 13 feet wide. The north and south walls were made of poles laid horizontally. The shed roof was made of wood shakes nailed to purlins. The purlins rested on rafters which were bolted to Feature 23's east wall. An exterior door on the north end of the shed is located in the center of the wall. It is made of vertical planks with irregular horizontal braces on the exterior. A depression immediately east of Feature 22 may mark the location of an attached corral.

The age of this building has not been determined, but apparently it dates to the late nineteenth century.

Feature 23, a log barn with a hay loft, is the last building to the west on the south side of the main street. It measures 37 feet 1 inch by 16 feet 7 inches. The steeple-notched logs are chinked with poles and split wood wedges. Standing about 6 inches beyond the west wall is a second wall made of slabs nailed vertically to a wood frame. This second wall covers the entire original west wall, and was added sometime after 1924.<sup>63</sup> Although the roof has completely collapsed, historic photographs show that Feature 23 had a front gable roof. A person door is located near the northeast corner on the facade and a hay loft door, before the building began to collapse, was once in the center of the wall on the upper level. One other door is located near the southeast corner in the rear wall, and a single window in the east wall to the left of center. Inside, there are at least two sections of plank floor. In the southwest corner is a feed box and a pole ladder which once led to the loft. Other interior features have been obscured by the collapsed roof.

The barn was built at least as early as 1908 when it was drawn on a sketch map of Leesburg. At that time, it belonged to Alice Mahoney, the postmistress and proprietor of the Leesburg Hotel. A large corral was attached to the west side of the building.<sup>64</sup>

Feature 24 is a small, double-walled log building which may have been a root cellar. The building measures 9 feet 7 inches by 9 feet 10 inches. The logs on the



**PLAN** ——— **SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"**  
STABLE (Feature #22)  
BARN (Feature #23)



exterior walls are saddle-notched at the corners; the interior wall logs do not interlock in the corners, but merely lay atop each other. The gable roof has almost completely collapsed; its original materials cannot be determined.

The building is not shown on the 1908 map of Leesburg, although the mapper may have considered it too insignificant in size to be included. The map and photographs indicate that it would have stood near the stage barn at the west end of Main Street which is no longer standing.

Feature 25 is a collapsed log building which is located about 20 feet behind (north of) Feature 11. It measures 17 feet 6 inches by about 23 feet 8 inches. The logs are square-notched at the building's corners and are toe-nailed together with wire spikes. Most architectural features of the building cannot be determined because of the poor condition; for example, the roof has almost completely disintegrated and only the fenestration on the south wall is apparent. The only feature of the roof that is recognizable is the dirt covering. A doorway is situated to the left of center on the south wall and a window farther to the left. To the right of the doorway was another one or more windows, but their exact position and size cannot be determined.

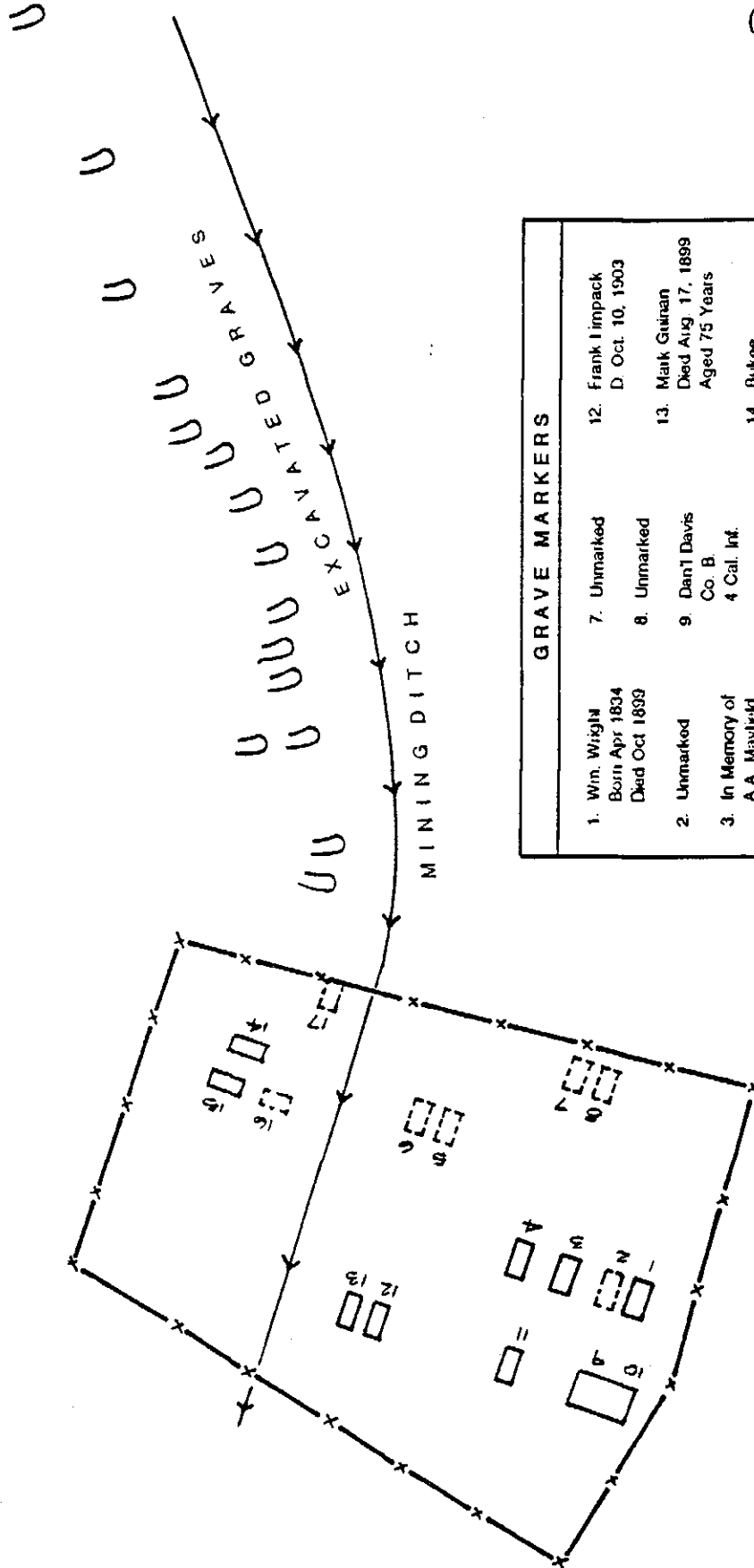
The use of wire spikes in the lap corners suggests construction after the mid-1880s. No available written or photographic records document the building's age or function.

Feature 26 is the Leesburg Cemetery which is located about 375 feet southwest of the town. Graves lie in two areas of the cemetery. First, a line of 15 former graves, from which the bodies have apparently been removed, lies at the northeast end of the cemetery. The other part, which contains at least 17 graves, is enclosed by a modern pole fence. (The pole, jack-leg fence was reportedly erected by Salmon National Forest personnel in the late 1970s.<sup>65</sup>) A mining ditch which heads in Camp Creek runs through the cemetery.

The line of former graves at the northeast edge of the cemetery is reportedly the remains of Chinese burials. The skeletal material was apparently removed at some unknown time in the past, and returned to China, as was the custom of Chinese immigrants. The graves were oriented approximately north-south and most along a line which followed the contour of the land immediately above a placer mining ditch. The age of this portion of the cemetery could not be determined, but is estimated to have been 1870 to 1900, a period where most of Leesburg's Chinese miners lived in the area.

The other section of the cemetery contains 10 marked graves. The locations of seven unmarked graves are also obvious from irregularities in the ground surface. Gravestones vary in type and material from two polished white stone, military markers, to

# LEESBURG CEMETERY ----- LEESBURG, IDAHO



GRAVE MARKERS			
1. Wm. Wight Born Apr 1834 Died Oct 1899	7. Unmarked	12. Frank Impact D. Oct. 10, 1903	
2. Unmarked	8. Unmarked	13. Mark Guinan Died Aug. 17, 1899 Aged 75 Years	
3. In Memory of A.A. Mayfield Died Dec. 20, 1895	9. Danl Davis Co. B 4 Cal. Inf.	14. Burkee Died 1928	
4. Frank Edwards April 1870-1872	10. Alb't Schmidt Co. H 9 Ohio Inf.	15. Mary Burkee	
5. Unmarked	11. James R. Mahoney Born Dec. 3, 1944 Died Feb. 16, 1904	16. Unmarked	
6. Unmarked		17. Unmarked	



SCALE: 1" = 30'

plain wooden markers, to small metal mortuary grave plates on the graves of a Chinese husband and wife (Bu Kee and Mary BuKee).

Non-structural features at the Leesburg townsite include roasting pits, dumps, historical archaeological remains, and ditches. Three roasting pits, possibly Chinese, are "cylindrical semi-subterranean cooking pit[s] constructed of dry-coursed, locally available tabular to rounded cobbles."<sup>66</sup> They are located on the west side of the Napias Creek Road near its junction with Leesburg's main street. Nine small dumps have been recorded in the townsite area, and others have been identified by former residents. Some date as early as the late 1800s and others to the 1930s. All appear to have been dumps of residential trash.<sup>67</sup> Among the historical archaeological remains are of a joss house, a Chinese religious building which had been destroyed by fire by 1920.<sup>68</sup> Finally, there are several mining ditches, mostly small and shallow. An exception is the large ditch which diverted water from Camp Creek west of the townsite and then ran through the Leesburg cemetery.

#### IV. FUTURE OF THE PROPERTY

The Leesburg Historic District, a 160 acre parcel which includes the townsite and surrounding acreage, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. The Leesburg Townsite, a portion of the district, lies within the boundaries of the Beartrack Gold Project, a large, open-pit mining operation proposed by Meridian Gold Company. The buildings and cemetery will not be directly impacted by the project, however. A haul road will be constructed north of the townsite and will handle all heavy mining traffic through the area. Until last winter, Meridian was prepared to begin construction of the Beartrack facility in 1993, but has recently placed the project on-hold.

As specified by a Programmatic Agreement between the U.S. Forest Service, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, signed on August 2, 1991, this HABS document has been prepared as partial mitigation for the project's adverse effect to significant cultural resources. Readers are referred to three other documents, "Bonanza Hydraulic Mining Site" (HAER No. ID-23), "Gold Dust Mine, Mill, and Camp" (HAER No. ID-24), and "Leesburg Mining District" (HAER No. ID-25), which have been prepared for other properties in the Leesburg Basin, as stipulated in the August 2 Memorandum of Agreement.

## V. ENDNOTES

1. U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, "Geology and Ore Deposits of Lemhi County, Idaho," by Joseph B. Umpleby, U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 528 (Washington, D.C.: Geological Survey, 1913), 148.

2. Several authors have written of the early history of the Leesburg Basin, including George E. Shoup, History of Lemhi County (Salmon: Salmon Recorder Herald, 1940, reprint Boise: Idaho State Library, 1969, page numbers refer to reprint edition); Orion E. Kirkpatrick, History of the Leesburg Pioneers (Salt Lake City: Pyramid Press, 1934), 23-25; Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology, "Gold Camps and Silver Cities," by Merle W. Wells, Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology Bulletin 22 (Moscow: Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology, 1983), 67-72; A. Dudley Gardner, "Cultural Setting," in "A Cultural Resources Inventory of the Meridian Gold Company Beartrack Project, Lemhi County, Idaho," by Michael R. Polk (Ogden, Utah: Sagebrush Archaeological Consultants, 1991), 11-14; Robert R. Kautz, Dan Scurlock, and Amy C. Earls, "Research Design and Methods," in "Cultural Resources Investigations of Leesburg and Vicinity, Lemhi County, Idaho: Draft," (Austin, Texas, and Reno, Nevada: Mariah Associates, 1992), 10-20. Note that Kirkpatrick and Shoup provide two different dates for the original discovery, the former July 16 and the latter August 12.

3. Wells, "Gold Camps," 71. See Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology.

4. Several other small mining companies, more partnerships than anything else, have been reported in these sources: "Leesburg," The (Salmon) Idaho Recorder, 26 March 1890, 3; Bannock Post, 9 February 1867, 2, cited by Gardner, "Cultural Setting," 20; Wells, "Gold Camps," 72. See Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology; Brian Shovers and Lynn Fredlund, "Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation: Beartrack Prospect, Leesburg, Idaho," (Butte, Montana: GCM Services, Inc., 1989), 5. Kirkpatrick, Leesburg Pioneers, 74-75, 92, 106 identified a few nineteenth century hydraulic mining operations.

5. "Leesburg," Shoup, History of Lemhi County, 6; Wells, "Gold Camps," 72. See Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology; Dan Scurlock, Susan Perlman, and Amy Earls, "Demographics," in "Cultural Resources Investigations of Leesburg and Vicinity, Lemhi County, Idaho," (Austin, Texas, and Reno, Nevada: Mariah Associates, 1992), 385.

6. Dan Scurlock, Amy Earls, and Jason D. Marmor, "Socio-Political Organization," in "Cultural Resources Investigations of Leesburg and Vicinity, Lemhi County, Idaho: Draft," (Austin, Texas, and Reno, Nevada: Mariah Associates, 1992), 345.

7. Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology, "Reconnaissance Geology of the Leesburg Quadrangle, Lemhi County, Idaho," by Philip N. Shockey, Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology Pamphlet 113 (Moscow: Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology, 1957), 32-33; Gardner, "Cultural Setting," 32; Umpleby, "Ore Deposits of Lemhi County," 152-153. See U.S. Department of the Interior; U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, Mineral Resources of the United States (Washington, D.C.: Geological Survey, 1921 and 1922).

8. Census records indicate that Leesburg's population was significantly smaller throughout the twentieth century than it was at any time between 1870 and 1900; Scurlock, "Demographics," 385.

9. Gardner, "Cultural Setting," 34, citing the Engineering and Mining Journal (13 January 1917, 95-96 and 19 November 1898), mentions both 1896 and 1898 as start-up dates for the Moose Creek dredge. S.H. Lorain and O.H. Metzger report an 1899 start date and a 1919 end date in U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, "Reconnaissance of Placer-Mining Districts in Lemhi County, Idaho," U.S. Bureau of Mines Information Circular 7082 (1939), 57.

10. Gardner, "Cultural Setting," 34; however, the Engineering and Mining Journal (10 March 1928), 429, reported that \$1 million was produced at the Moose Creek placers by hydraulicking and only \$½ million by dredging.

11. Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology, Inspector of Mines, Annual Reports of the Mining Industry of Idaho (1910-1955); U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Mines, Mineral Resources of the United States (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Mines, 1925-1932); U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Mines, Minerals Yearbook (Washington: U.S. Bureau of Mines, 1934-1955).

12. Wells, "Gold Camps," 67. See Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology; Shoup, History of Lemhi County, 6, 12.

13. Shoup, History of Lemhi County, 6, 10, 11; Gardner, "Cultural Overview," 20, 23.

14. Wells, "Gold Camps," 68. See Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology.

15. Gardner, "Cultural Overview," 22; Dan Scurlock, "Economic Context," 260.

16. Patrick L. O'Neill and others, "Site and Feature Descriptions," in "Cultural Resources Investigations of Leesburg and Vicinity, Lemhi County, Idaho: Draft," (Austin, Texas, and Reno, Nevada: Mariah Associates, 1992), 47, 51.

17. O'Neill, "Site and Feature Descriptions," 51.

18. Scurlock, "Socio-Political Organization," 370 use the Chinese writing on the interior walls of Features 13 and 14 to argue for Chinese construction or reconstruction of the two buildings. They conclude that

The Chinese writing as well as the archival/oral historical associations with Chinese allow Features 13 and 14 to be attributed to Chinese construction (or reconstruction after moving the cabin). Documented construction of Leesburg cabins by Chinese shows that Chinese miners did not merely reoccupy Anglo-American structures or live in temporary structures, as has been reported for mining camps in northern California and in Nevada. The Leesburg data contribute new evidence of Chinese construction in western mining camps.

The author instead interprets the physical remains as clear evidence of reconstruction of a moved building, and therefore concludes that all architectural attributes at Features 13 and 14, except presumably the roofs, **cannot** necessarily be credited to Chinese builders. The ethnic affiliation of the **original** builder (and designer) remains unknown.

19. Scurlock, "Socio-Political Organization," 357-372.

20. Scurlock, "Socio-Political Organization," identifies a second window at Feature 6 situated right of the doorway, but none of the photographs reproduced in their report clearly show such a window (pp. 48, 51, 53, 54).

21. The physical descriptions provided here, including floor plan measurements, were first recorded in 1982 by U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, Salmon National Forest, "Cultural Resource Inventory of the Leesburg National Historic District, CRM-SL-249," by Mitzi Rossillon, on file, Salmon National Forest Supervisor's Office, Salmon. These were verified and expanded during field inspections made in 1992. Although some buildings have further collapsed, or in one case burned, since the 1982 recording, descriptions of their appearance as of that time are included with this documentation to provide as complete a picture of Leesburg as possible.

22. "Leesburg Locals," The (Salmon) Idaho Recorder, 11 September 1903, 3.

23. "Leesburg Locals," The (Salmon) Idaho Recorder, 8 November 1906, 8. The 1908 Leesburg map and legend identify two buildings owned by the Stephens Estate, both vacant at the time. These are Features 1 and 2; Earl R. Gilbreath, Map showing the Lucania and Ivernia Placer Claims. Also the Village of Leesburg, Idaho in Conflict with Alice Mahoney Homestead Application - 6/8/1908 (1908), on file,

Salmon National Forest Supervisor's Office, Salmon, reproduced in O'Neill, "Site and Feature Descriptions," 43-44.

24. Paul Fitzgerald, Interview by Mitzi Rossillon, 1 September 1982, Interview #12, Salmon National Forest Supervisor's Office, Salmon. Rossillon, "Leesburg National Historic District," 17. See U.S. Department of Agriculture; "Leesburg Locals," The (Salmon) Idaho Recorder, 22 May 1903, 3.

25. Rossillon, "Leesburg National Historic District," 17. See U.S. Department of Agriculture. The legend for the 1908 map notes that Building #3 measured only 18 x 20 feet, only half the size of Feature 2. The construction techniques employed, the current building condition, and Slavin's 1873 newspaper find indicate that Building #3 is indeed Feature 2 and the legend is in error.

26. Dick Shoup, Interview by Mitzi Rossillon, September 1982, Interview #10, Salmon National Forest Supervisor's Office, Salmon.

27. O'Neill, "Site and Feature Descriptions," 48.

28. O'Neill, "Site and Feature Descriptions," Figure 4.8; Michael R. Corbett, "Field Notes--Log Buildings, Leesburg Historic District, Idaho, (1991)," on file, Renewable Technologies, Inc., Butte, Montana. The photograph is labeled in newspaper files "1930s," and was taken in 1937 or later.

29. Rossillon, "Leesburg National Historic District," 17. See U.S. Department of Agriculture; Eugene R. Conlee, "Leesburg, Idaho," (1946), Salmon Public Library, Salmon, cited in O'Neill, "Site and Feature Descriptions," 45.

30. O'Neill, "Site and Feature Descriptions," 61.

31. Rossillon, "Leesburg National Historic District," 17. See U.S. Department of Agriculture; Shoup, Interview #10.

32. O'Neill, "Site and Feature Descriptions," 44, 45, 51.

33. Rossillon, "Leesburg National Historic District," 17. See U.S. Department of Agriculture; "Leesburg Locals," The (Salmon) Idaho Recorder, 19 June 1903, 3.

34. Rossillon, "Leesburg National Historic District," 20. See U.S. Department of Agriculture; 1905 photograph in Lemhi County Historical Museum, photograph collection, Salmon.

35. Rossillon, "Leesburg National Historic District," 20. See U.S. Department of Agriculture; Fitzgerald, Interview #12.

36. The side walls are currently covered with planks and the log beneath may or may not have been hewn.

37. Scurlock, "Socio-Political Organization," 360-361, 372.

38. U.S. Patent Office, Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office, 1934, vol. 441, 743. The paper is marked by "Produced under Fleck. PAT. 1955626."

39. O'Neill, "Site and Feature Descriptions," 43-45.

40. Fitzgerald, Interview #12.

41. Ibid., 362-367, 370.

42. Scurlock, "Socio-Political Organization," 362.

43. Fitzgerald, Interview #12; "Leesburg Locals," The (Salmon) Idaho Recorder, 17 July 1903, 3.

44. "Leesburg Locals," The (Salmon) Idaho Recorder, 25 September 1903, 3.

45. Conlee, "Leesburg, Idaho."

46. Photograph labeled "Ira Gable's house. 670-193," Lemhi County Historical Museum, photograph collection, Salmon.

47. Fitzgerald, Interview #12.

48. Gilbreath, Map showing the Lucania and Ivernia Placer Claims.

49. Shoup, Interview #10; Conlee, "Leesburg, Idaho."

50. Fitzgerald, Interview #12.

51. Salmon Recorder-Herald files, Salmon.

52. Lemhi County Historical Museum, photograph collection, Salmon.

53. "Leesburg," (Salmon) Recorder Herald, 27 November 1929, 3.

54. Lemhi County Historical Museum, photograph collection, Salmon.

55. Salmon Recorder-Herald files, Salmon.

56. Shoup, Interview #10.



57. Lemhi County Historical Museum, photograph collection, Salmon.
58. Ibid.
59. Rossillon, "Leesburg National Historic District," 23. See U.S. Department of Agriculture; Shoup, Interview #10; "Lemhi County Deed Record Mining" Book T, 10 June 1927, 596 (Alice Mahoney deeded the Gem Placer Claim, which included buildings south of Main Street, to Bonanza Placer Inc.).
60. Conlee, "Leesburg, Idaho."
61. Gilbreath, Map showing the Lucania and Ivernia Placer Claims.
62. Rossillon, "Leesburg National Historic District," 23. See U.S. Department of Agriculture.
63. O'Neill, "Site and Feature Descriptions," Figure 4.7.
64. Gilbreath, Map showing the Lucania and Ivernia Placer Claims.
65. Fitzgerald, Interview #12.
66. O'Neill, "Site and Feature Descriptions," 129.
67. Rossillon, "The Leesburg National Historic District," 31. See U.S. Department of Agriculture; O'Neill, "Site and Feature Descriptions," 130-158.
68. O'Neill, "Site and Feature Descriptions," 81-106.

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